

Let's Make A Deal!

Genesis 17:1-27

Introduction

I The Reaffirmation Of The Covenant

- A. The Lord **appeared** to Abram and said:
 - 1. "I am God Almighty"
 - a. "**Walk** before me" - Amos 3:3; Gal 5:25
 - b. "Be **blameless**" - 1 Kings 18:21; Josh 24:15
- B. The Lord confirmed His covenant:
 - 1. To greatly increase Abram's numbers - Heb 6:14
 - 2. To make Abram the Father of many **nations** - Gen 12:2
 - 3. To make Abram very **fruitful** - Jn 15:8; 2 Tim 2:2
 - 4. To make nations & kings come from Abram - Gen 35:11
- C. The Lord gave Abram the new **name**, "Abraham" - Rev 2:7
- D. The Lord defined the terms of the covenant:
 - 1. It is an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his heirs
 - a. To be their **God** - Jer 32:38-40
 - b. To give them the whole land of **Canaan** - Gen 15:18

II The Requirements Of Abram

- A. The Lord establishes the **covenant** of circumcision
 - 1. It was required of Abram and his descendents
 - 2. It would be the **sign** of the covenant - Rom 4:9-12
 - 3. It applied to every male 8 days old - Acts 7:8
 - 4. It was an **everlasting** covenant in their flesh
 - 5. It carried with it a punishment for non-compliance:
 - a. Violators would be **cut off** - Jer 34:18
 - b. Violators would be breaking covenant - Is 24:5
- B. The Lord gave Sarai the new name "Sarah"
 - 1. He would **bless** her and give Abram a son - Gen 1:28
 - 2. He would make her the mother of **nations** and kings

III The Terms Of The Covenant Are Finalized

- A. The counter-offer of Abraham - Gen 18:12-14
 - 1. He fell facedown, **laughed** and said to himself:
 - a. "Will a son be born to a man 100 years old?"

- b. "Will Sarah bear a child at 90 years of age?"
 - 2. He requested that Ishmael **live** under God's blessing
- B. The counter/counter-offer of the Lord
 - 1. He would give Sarah a son named Isaac - Gen 21:6-7
 - a. "I will establish my everlasting covenant with him"
 - 2. He would bless Ishmael according to Abraham's request
 - a. "I will make him **fruitful** and increase his numbers"
 - b. "He will be the father of **12** rulers and a great nation"
 - 3. He affirmed His non-negotiable covenant with Isaac
 - a. Who Sarah would bear within a year - Rom 9:8-9
- C. The acceptance of the terms
 - 1. On that very day Abraham **obeyed** the Lord's command
 - a. He circumcised every male in his household - Jn 14:21
 - 2. Abraham was **99** and Ishmael was 13 - Rom 4:19-21

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you were tempted to settle for "2nd best".
- 2. El Shaddai means, "The all-sufficient, all-competent, all-powerful God." What impact would this name have on Abram? Where do you need God to be El Shaddai for you?
- 3. The Lord commanded Abram to walk before Him and to be blameless. Is this characteristic of your life? Why or why not?
- 4. Why do you think God chose circumcision as the sign of the covenant? What does circumcision demonstrate? [Hint: Rom 4:9-12] What does God require of us today? [Gal 5:6]
- 5. How did Abraham initially respond to God's promise of a son? How did he ultimately respond? (Gen 17:23-27) Is immediate obedience the mark of your life? Why or why not?
- 6. Take a moment to examine your life. Have you created an "Ishmael" in your life? Are you willing to let go of it in order to receive God's best? Ask the Lord, El Shaddai, for a heart to believe His promises for your life and to obey Him today!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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