

## Handout 1: Genesis Lesson 9

Yahweh's prophecy to Abram in Genesis 15:13-21 was fulfilled at the time of Joseph son of Jacob [renamed Israel] and during the Exodus experience:

- ◆ Abram's descendants will be exiles in a foreign land = Egypt (Gen 46:1-27).
- ◆ They will be enslaved and oppressed for 400 years (Ex 1:8-14; 12:40).
- ◆ God will bring judgment on the nation that enslaved these sons of Abram and they will leave with many possessions (Ex 12:35-36).
- ◆ Abram will die a happy old age; he was 175 years old when he died (Gen 25:7-8).
- ◆ In the fourth generation Abram's descendants will return to Canaan, four generations after entering Egypt from the time of Jacob/ Israel and his 12 sons: (1) Levi, son; (2) Kohath, grandson; (3) Amran, great-grandson; (4) Moses, great-great-grandson.

Genesis chapter 16: Sarai (Sarah) like Eve offered her husband what looked like a good plan to her, and Abram (Abraham), like Adam, accepted without protest.

Eve in Genesis 3:2-17	Sarai (Sarah) in Genesis 6:2-5
<i>The woman answered</i> (Gen 3:2)	<i>So Sarai said to Abram</i> (Gen 16:2a)
<i>you listened to the voice of your wife</i> (Gen 3:17)	<i>Listen, now</i> (Gen 16:2b)
<i>she took some</i> (Gen 3:6a)	<i>Sarai took Hagar her Egyptian slave-girl</i> (Gen 16:3a)
<i>she also gave some to her husband</i> (Gen 3:6b)	<i>and gave her to Abram</i> (Gen 16:3b)
<i>It was the woman you put with me.... The snake tempted me</i> (Gen 3:12-13)	<i>This outrage done to me is your fault</i> (Gen 16:5)
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The Abrahamic Covenant is the basis of all future covenants with Israel. It is also the foundation of the covenant with the "new Israel," the universal New Covenant of Jesus Christ, in which all the promises made to Abraham are fulfilled:

- ❖ The land is the entire earth over which Jesus Christ is King (the Kingdom of Heaven on earth—Christ's salvation-kingdom, the Church).
- ❖ The descendants are all who accept the gift of salvation.
- ❖ The world-wide blessing is the Gospel of salvation extended to all mankind; it is the path to the Promised Land of Heaven.

Chapter 17 can be divided into five sections:

1. God's appearance and first speech to Abraham (17:1-14)
2. The conclusion of God's speech to Abraham (17:15-16)
3. Abraham's response to God (17:17-18)
4. God's second speech: His reply to Abraham (17:19-22)
5. The conclusion (17:23-27)

Part II of the covenant is addressed in three parts:

1. *As for me* (Gen 17:4-8)
2. *As for you* (Gen 17:9-14)
3. *As for Sarah* (Gen 17:15-16)

Handout 2: Lesson 9

**Genesis 17:4:** *God spoke to him as follows, ‘For my part, this is my covenant with you: you will become the father of many nations.*

Just as when God promised a covenant to Noah in Genesis 6:17-21, God defined His part in fulfilling the covenant promises and Abram’s part:

God’s part in Genesis 6	God’s part in Genesis 17
<i>For my part I am going to send the flood, the waters, on earth, to destroy all living things... But with you I shall establish my covenant... (Gen 6:17-18a)</i>	<i>For my part, this is my covenant with you: you will become the father of many nations (Gen 17:4).</i>
Noah’s part in Genesis 6	Abraham’s part in Genesis 17
<i>...and you will go aboard the ark... from all living things, you must take two (pairs) of each kind... they must be male and female. [..]. For your part, provide yourself with eatables of all kinds...Noah did this; exactly as God commanded (Gen 6:18b-21).</i>	<i>You for your part must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you.... You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin ... every one of your males, generation after generation... [..]. ..all the men of his household...were circumcised with him (Gen 17:9-27)</i>
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God’s promises for this section of the covenant are expressed in seven parts (Gen 17:4-8):

1. Abram will become the father of many nations.
2. His new name will be Abraham.
3. Abraham will be exceedingly fertile
4. Nations will descend from his line
5. His descendants will be kings
6. This is a perpetual covenant to include Abraham’s descendants
7. The entire land of Canaan will belong to Abraham and his descendants

Abraham’s obligations to the covenant are expressed in seven parts (Gen 17:9-14):

1. Abraham and his descendants must keep the covenant.
2. Every male must be circumcised.
3. Circumcision is to be the covenant sign
4. All male babies are to be circumcised when they are eight days old.
5. Sons and slaves, born in the household or purchased as adults, must be circumcised.
6. The covenant must be marked in the flesh of your people as a perpetual covenant.
7. Any male who is not circumcised is to be excommunicated because he has broken the covenant in the failure to comply with the covenant obligation.

Why did God require circumcision as a condition of the covenant?

1. It was a blood sacrifice that was a sign of obedience to God in all matters.
2. It was a physical sign of belonging to a covenant people.
3. Symbolically circumcision also represented the “cutting off” of the sinful old life.

Circumcision was an external sign that represented an internal condition. To be “circumcised of heart” was to be obedient to Yahweh (Lev 26:41; Dt 10:16; Jer 4:4). Foreigners who were both uncircumcised of heart and flesh could not be admitted to the Israelite Temple (Ez 44:7; also see Dt 30: 1-2, 6; Rom 2:25; Lev 26:41; Col 2: 9-13; Phil 3:3; 1Cor 7:18-19).