

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 13, 2022

GENESIS 17:9-14

### INTRODUCTION:

1. After God reaffirmed His promise to Abraham, He entered into a covenant with him.
  - a) The word “covenant” is found ten times in Genesis 17. A covenant is an agreement between two parties and can be conditional or unconditional. (Gen. 6.18; 9.8-11)
  - b) A covenant is often accompanied by a sign. (Gen. 9.12,13)
2. Circumcision was both a covenant and a sign of Israel’s covenant relationship with God.
  - a) The word “circumcision” first appears in Genesis 17 where it is used ten times.
  - b) God’s part in this agreement was to make him a great nation and be their God (Gen. 17.4)
  - c) Abraham and His descendant’s part was to be circumcised. (Gen. 17.9)

### I. CIRCUMCISION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. The covenant relationship that God had with Abraham and his descendants (Israel).
  1. **GENESIS 17.7:** *“And I will establish My covenant...to be God to you and your descendants after you.”*
  2. What is a covenant relationship?
    - a) It is a relationship governed by the terms of a contract. (Ex. 19.5; 34.27,28)
    - b) Breaking the covenant nullifies the relationship. (Isa. 50.1,2; Lev. 26.12-15,40-44)
- B. The laws surrounding circumcision.
  1. Circumcision was to be applied to every male in Israel.
    - a) **GENESIS 17.9,10:** *“Every male child among you shall be circumcised.”*
    - b) God required the children of Israel to be circumcised a second time. (Josh. 5.2-8)
    - c) The incident with Moses emphasizes the importance of circumcision. (Ex. 4.24-26)
  2. Circumcision was to be a sign indicating their relationship with God.
    - a) **GENESIS 17.11:** *“it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.”*
    - b) Those who were circumcised were the people of God. (Rom. 2.28,29)
  3. Circumcision was to be performed on the eighth day.
    - a) **GENESIS 17.12:** *“He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised”*
    - b) Notable circumcisions. (Luke 1.59,60; 2.21; Phil. 3.5)
  4. Circumcision was to be applied to strangers.
    - a) **GENESIS 17.12,13:** *“any foreigner who is not your descendant.”*
    - b) Without circumcision, strangers could not participate in the Passover. (Ex. 12.48)
  5. Those who failed to be circumcised were punished. (Gen. 17.14)

### II. CIRCUMCISION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Circumcision was often used metaphorically to refer to their spiritual condition.
  1. To be uncircumcised was to be stubborn and sinful. (Deut. 10.16; Jer. 9.25,26)
  2. The Gentiles often acted as if they were the circumcised. (Rom. 2.25-27)
- B. Is circumcision still required for those in a relationship with God?
  1. Those who were circumcised boasted in their relationship with God. (Phil. 3.2-7)
  2. Many of the Jews still insisted that circumcision defined their relationship with God and insisted on carrying it over into the law of Christ. (Acts 15.1-5; 1 Cor. 7.18,19)
  3. Circumcision no longer defines our relationship with God. (Gal. 5.6; 6.15; Rom. 2.28)
  4. Is baptism the new circumcision? (Col. 2.11)