

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 20, 2022

GENESIS 17:9-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. God reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham and his descendants with circumcision.
 - a) **GENESIS 17.7:** *"I will establish My covenant...to be God to you and your descendants."*
 - b) It would be an *"everlasting covenant"* for all future generations. (Gen. 17.13).
 - c) It was a covenant governed by the Law of Moses. (Ex. 34.27,28)
2. Circumcision is often used in the Bible symbolically to refer to cutting off sin.

I. THE SYMBOLIC USE OF CIRCUMCISION

- A. The Israelites had been a rebellious people. (Deut. 9.4-6)
 1. They rebelled by crafting a golden calf. (Deut. 9.7,8,12-14)
 2. They rebelled by complaining in the wilderness. (Deut. 9.22)
 - a) They complained in Taberah. (Deut. 9.22; Num. 11.1-3)
 - b) They complained in Massah about no water. (Deut. 9.22; Ex. 17.1,2,7)
 - c) They complained in Kibroth Hattaavah. (Deut. 9.22; Num. 11.4,31-35)
 3. They rebelled by refusing to enter Canaan. (Deut. 9.23,24; Num. 13.26-28)
- B. **DEUTERONOMY 10.16:** *"Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer."* How was Israel to cut off their stubbornness?
 1. **DEUTERONOMY 10.12,13:** *"What does the LORD your God require of you?"*
 2. **DEUTERONOMY 10.14,15:** *"The LORD delighted...loved...and He chose their descendants after them"*

II. BAPTISM: THE NEW CIRCUMCISION?

- A. If baptism is compared to circumcision, does that authorize infant baptism?
 1. Some argue that since circumcision indicated that you were in a covenant relationship with God, infants are to be baptized. (Gen. 17.12)
 2. There is no direct correlation between circumcision and baptism.
 - a) Circumcision indicate Israel's covenant relationship with God. (Matt. 3.9)
 - b) With the New Covenant, the nature of our relationship changed. (Heb. 8.7-13)
 - c) Circumcision no longer identifies the people of God. (Acts 15.1; Rom. 2.28,29)
- B. If baptism is compared to circumcision, does that make baptism a sign of salvation?
 1. Some suggest that since circumcision was a sign identifying the people of God, baptism is a sign indicating that we are already saved. (Gen. 17.11)
 2. Baptism is used to symbolize the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
 - a) **ROMANS 6.1-3:** We were *"baptized into His death."*
 - b) **ROMANS 6.4:** *"Therefore, we were buried with Him"*
 - c) **ROMANS 6.4:** *"Just as Christ was raised... we should walk in newness of life."*
 - d) **ROMANS 6.5:** *"the likeness of His death...the likeness of His resurrection"*
 3. Baptism is used to symbolize the washing away of sins.
 - a) **1 PETER 3.20:** *"a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."*
 - b) **1 PETER 3.21:** *"There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism"*
 4. Baptism is used to symbolize the cutting off of sin. (Col. 2.11,12)
 - a) **COLOSSIANS 2.11:** *"putting off the body of the sins of the flesh."*
 - b) **COLOSSIANS 2.12:** *"buried with Him in baptism."*