

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 6, 2022

GENESIS 17:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Now at the age of ninety-nine, the time was near for God to fulfill His promise of making Abraham the father of a great nation.
 - a) Abram was seventy-five when God first approached him with this promise. (Gen. 12.4)
 - b) For the next eleven years, Abram would have an adventurous and eventful life. (Gen. 12.10; 13.7; 14.14,18; 15.12; 16.3)
 - c) **GENESIS 17.1:** *“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram”*
2. Four times, God promised to multiply Abraham’s descendants. This time, God seals His promise with circumcision.

I. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF GOD

A. **GENESIS 17.1:** *“I am Almighty God”*

1. God (Elohim): Deity, describes someone who is superior, supernatural, and object of worship. (Isa 45.5,14,18,21,22; Ex. 23.13; Matt. 4.10; Rev. 4.9)
2. LORD (Yahweh): Tetragrammaton (having four letters). The proper name of God signifying His eternal nature. (Ex. 3.13,14; 6.3; Hos. 12.5)
3. Lord (Adonai): Master. In the Greek, Kurios. (Lev. 24.15,16; Matt. 8.8; 1 Pet. 3.6)
4. Almighty (Shaddai): All powerful, omnipotent. (Rev. 1.8; 4.8)

B. As the Almighty, God has the ability to keep His promises. Three parts. (Gen. 17.2-8)

1. God would make Abram the father of many nations. (Gen. 17.2-6)
 - a) **GENESIS 17.5:** From Abram (father) to Abraham (father of multitudes).
 - b) **GENESIS 17.5:** The promise was made in the past tense. (cf. Rom. 4.17)
 - c) **GENESIS 17.6:** *“kings shall come from you.”* (cf. Matt. 1.1,6)
2. God would always be with his descendants.
 - a) **GENESIS 17.7:** *“My covenant between Me and you and your descendants”*
 - b) **GENESIS 17.7:** *“to be God to you and your descendants”*
3. God would give them land.
 - a) **GENESIS 17.8:** *“all the land of Canaan”* (cf. Gen. 13.14,15)
 - b) **GENESIS 17.8:** *“as an everlasting possession”*

II. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES TODAY

A. Consider the reaction of Abraham to the promises of God.

1. **GENESIS 17.17:** *“Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed...”* (cf. Rom. 4.18-22)
2. Compare his reaction to Sarah’s reaction. (Gen. 18.11-15)
3. Abraham repeatedly demonstrated his faith. (Heb. 11.8-12,17-19)

B. What does God promise you today? (2 Pet. 1.4; Heb. 8.6)

1. We are promised to be the people of God. (2 Cor. 7.1; 6.14-18)
2. We are promised a blessed life. (1 Tim. 4.8; Mark 10.29,30)
3. We are promised a bodily resurrection. (2 Pet. 3.3,9; cf. 1 Thess. 4.14ff)
4. We are promised eternal life. (Titus 1.2; 1 John 2.25; James 1.12)

C. How will you react to His promises?

1. We can react the way Sarah reacted. Doubting, fearful. (Matt. 8.26; 14.31)
2. We can react the way Abraham reacted. (1 John 5.13; Heb. 6.11-18)