

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Humanly Impossible"
Genesis 17:15-27
Study-39

Genesis 17 God appears to Abram when Abram is depleted of all human effort and strength.

Verses 1-14 After 13 years of silence, God appears.

God changes Abram's name to Abraham and then repeats the covenant promises to him.

Verses 15-27 God now changes Sarai to Sarah, because through her God was going to fulfill the promise of a nation.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God's Promises Today Are No Less Capable Of Fulfillment Than They Were In Abraham's Day."

- 1. Verses 15-22 Sarah's Promised Son:**
- 2. Verses 23-27 Abraham's Obedience:**

1. Verses 15-22 Sarah's Promised Son:

Genesis 17:15 Then God said to Abraham,

Context – Abram and Sarai attempted to take a shortcut in faith. After ten years of waiting for a son, Sarai gave Abram her maid, Hagar, to raise up a son. This resulted in Ishmael being the father of the Arab nations.

Genesis 16:16; Genesis 17:1 13 years of silence!

Genesis 17:1 said to him, "I am God Almighty;

El Shaddai "translated as "Almighty, omnipotent, all-powerful"

God comes and gives a reaffirmation of the covenant.

Genesis 12:1-3,7 13:14-17; 15:5-21

Genesis 17:9-14 God commanded Abraham to obey

God gave Israel the land. But their possession and enjoyment of the land depend on their faithfulness to obey the Lord.

"As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai –

"my princess" a name of endearment. The Christian husband should treat his wife like "a princess" because that is what she is in the Lord. Genesis 2:21

but Sarah shall be her name. Sarah – "a princess, nobility"

She would become the mother of the nations.

The personal name became a positional name.

**Genesis 17:16 "I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. God is saying forget Ishmael; you will have a child through Sarah.
Galatians 4:23**

**The Nation Of Israel Came Through Sarah:
Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."**

Sarah had a faith in God. She is an example to wives and mothers.
(1 Peter 3:1-6) She submitted to her husband and longed to be a mother.

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face
Abraham is overtaken, broken

**and laughed,
Abraham Laughed For Joy! Note the silence of Scripture as God does not rebuke Abraham like God does Sarah.**

**Sarah Laughed In Unbelief When She Heard The News:
Genesis 18:10-15
Sarah Laughed For Joy When Isaac Was Born:
Genesis 21:6; Psalm 113:9**

Lesson In Faith: They will name him Isaac – "laughter"
For all their lives, they will remember that instead of the laughter of unbelief, they can have the joy of fulfilled promises.

Romans 4:19-22

**Abraham Asks God 2 Questions (In His Heart):
Question #1 Genesis 17:17 and said in his heart,
"Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old?"**

**Question #2 Genesis 17:17
And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"**
Abraham sees the situation as humanly impossible.

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" Abraham had a great love for Ishmael. Suggested **Eliezer**
Genesis 15:2-5
God had already promised to bless Ishmael (**Genesis 16:11**)

God revealed to Abraham the promised child would come through Sarah.
Genesis 17:16

Abraham cries out on behalf of Ishmael. **God's plan for Israel would be Isaac but God's plan for Arabs would be Ishmael.**

Ishmael - Isaac – Pictures the **two** natures of man, the (Old Nature) and the (New Nature)

Ishmael - represents the "Son of the Flesh" (The Old Nature)

Isaac – represents the "Son of Faith" (The New Nature)

Isaac's birth Ishmael's nature remained the same. **Galatians 5:17;**
Ephesians 4:22-24

Genesis 17:19 But God said, "No,
God said No! to Abraham's request.

Sarah's Promise Of A Son: but Sarah your wife will bear you a son,

Isaac *"one laughs, may God laugh, father laughs"*

Both Abraham and Sarah laughed so we will call him laughter.

Everlasting Covenant With Isaac:
everlasting covenant for his descendants

Genesis 17:20 "As for Ishmael, I have heard you;
God always hears us.

Ishmael's Fruitfulness:
behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful

He shall become the father of twelve princes, Genesis 25:12-18,
Genesis 25:16

The blessing of Ishmael has carried with it the most terrible results
for centuries: 2 Horrible things

1. From Ishmael The Arab People:

They bar the advancement of Israel, the rightful owner of the land which God swore should belong to Isaac and his descendants.

2. From Ishmael The Religion of Islam: This is the strongest threat to the advancement of Christianity the world has ever seen.

Genesis 17:21 "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac,
The covenant was not with or through Ishmael (the Flesh) but through the promise of the (Spirit).

whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."
(Within a year's time)

A Lesson In Faith: When God is preparing a bright future for us, don't cling to the things of the past. Ishmael represented the past (Flesh), Isaac the future. (Spirit)

Genesis 17:22 God went up from Abraham.

John 14:17 He abides with you and will be in you.

2. Verses 23-27 Abraham's Obedience: Genesis 17:23 (Act of Faith)

Abraham Was Fully Obedient:

every male among the men of Abraham's household,

circumcised the flesh of their foreskin - The Sign of The Covenant Was Circumcision: A reminder of obligations and privileges under the covenant.

Circumcise – *"cutting around" It was a personal sign. Involving the person, the parents, and his future wife.*

As Parents, they were blessed by God in the receiving of a son, the responsibility to train them in the ways of the Lord. The future wife whom the husband was in a covenant relationship, a decedent of Abraham. God would bless their home, and procreation. The man daily is dedicated to God and His plan.

*Cutting away of skin (flesh) surgical complete separation represents the sins of the flesh. The body and life belong to God. No misuse of the body, adultery, fornication. **Colossians 2:11-13***

Sometimes we don't fully obey God, we give partial obedience.

Abraham Was Immediate In His Obedience: in the very same day, "Delayed Obedience Is Disobedience."

Genesis 17:24-25 thirteen years the number 13 stands for rebellion.

Genesis 17:26 Abraham was circumcised, Jesus taught "Servant Leadership"

Genesis 17:27 Total Obedience.

Application:

- 1.** Lesson In Faith: They Will Name Him Isaac – "Laughter" All Their Lives, They Will Remember That Instead Of The laughter Of Unbelief, They Can Have The Joy Of Fulfilled Promise.
- 2.** A Lesson In Faith: When God Is Preparing A Bright Future For Us, Don't Cling To The Things Of The Past. Ishmael Represented The Past (Flesh), Isaac The Future. (Spirit)
- 3.** In An Act of Faith Abraham Was Fully Obedient, And Abraham Was Immediate In His Obedience. Delayed Obedience Is Disobedience.