

# Israel's Patriarch

## A Study in Genesis 12-24

A Covenant of  
Circumcision  
Genesis 17:1-27  
September 6, 2020

This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. - **Genesis 17:10**

### I. THE COVENANT SIGN

- A “delay” of thirteen years has passed since Abram and Sarai had attempted to fulfill God’s promise by their own scheming (Gen. 17:25).
- The sign of God’s covenant is the sign of circumcision for every male under the family household (Gen. 17:10-14).
- The covenant is everlasting. With Abraham first, then his offspring, then all future generations. The promise of the land is also everlasting (Gen. 17:4, 7-8).

### II. THE PROMISE

- Abram and Sarai receive new names. A new day has dawned in their relationship to God (Gen. 17:5, 15).
- Abraham’s faith is being tested. He implores God to use ordinary means by simply blessing Ishmael (Gen. 17:18).

### III. THE CALL

- It is God Almighty (*El Shaddai*) who now appears to Abraham (Gen. 17:1).
- Two sides of one covenant promise are shown. “Fear not” is the call in Gen. 15:1; and “walk before me and be blameless” is the demand in Gen. 17:1.

### IV. THE RESPONSE

- Abraham’s response is typical for him. He obeys immediately (Gen. 17:22-26).
- Obedience is always the best course of action in our dealings with God (Deut. 6:3; Josh 1:7; 1 Sam. 15:22; Ps. 119:60; Matt. 28:20).

**KNOW:** A covenant (and a sign to accompany it) is now firmly established by God with Abraham and his offspring. This covenant is forever.

**DO:** Place your hope and trust in God’s promises. He keeps them forever.

### Suggested Reading:

*\*The Obedience Option: Because God Knows What's Good for Us* by David Hegg (LifePoint Library #248.4 HEG)

*\*Waiting on God* by Andrew Murray (LifePoint Library #248.32 MUR)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Genesis 17:1-27

1. What is God’s call for Abraham in this chapter? His expectations?
2. How doable is this for Abraham, or us?
3. What are God’s promises in this chapter?
4. The sign of the covenant is circumcision. Why, do you think, are only male offspring included in this sign?
5. Why, do you think, does God bless Ishmael?
6. Why is obedience so important in our walk of faith?
7. What are your application points from our text?