

“The Family That Followed God” Part 8
Circumcision Covenant

Genesis 17
“God’s Will God’s Way”

Genesis 17:1-27 NLT

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am **El-Shaddai**—‘God Almighty.’

Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life.

2 I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.”

3 At this, Abram fell face down on the ground.

Then God said to him,

4 “This is My Covenant with you:

I will make you the father of a multitude of nations!

5 What’s more, **I am** changing your name.

It will no longer be Abram.

Instead, you will be called Abraham,

for you will be the father of many nations.

6 **I will** make you extremely fruitful.
Your descendants will become many nations,
and kings will be among them!

7 “**I will** confirm My Covenant with you
and your descendants after you,
from generation to generation.

This is the everlasting covenant:

I will always be your God
and the God of your descendants after you.

8 And **I will** give the entire land of Canaan,
where you now live as a foreigner,
to you and your descendants.

It will be their possession forever,
and **I will** be their God.”

9 Then God said to Abraham,
“Your responsibility
is to obey the terms of the covenant.
You and all your descendants
have this **continual responsibility**.

10 This is the covenant that you
and your descendants must keep:
Each male among you **must be circumcised**.

11 You must **cut off the flesh of your foreskin** as **a sign** of the covenant between Me and you.

12 From generation to generation, **every male child must be circumcised** on the **eighth day** after his birth. This applies not only to members of **your family** but also to the **servants born** in your household and the **foreign-born servants** whom you have purchased.

13 All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of My Everlasting Covenant.

14 Any male who fails to be circumcised will be cut off from the covenant family for breaking the covenant.”

15 Then God said to Abraham,
“Regarding Sarai, your wife—
her name will no longer be Sarai.
From now on her name will be Sarah.

16 And **I will** bless her and give you a son from her!
Yes, **I will** bless her richly,
and she will become the mother of **many nations**.
Kings of nations will be among her descendants.”

17 Then Abraham bowed down to the ground,
but **he laughed to himself in disbelief**.
“How could I become a father at the age of 100?”
he thought. “And how can Sarah
have a baby when she is ninety years old?”

18 So Abraham said to God,
“**May Ishmael live under Your Special Blessing!**”

19 But God replied, “**No—**
Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you.
You will name him Isaac,
and **I will** confirm My Covenant with him
and his descendants as an **Everlasting Covenant.**”

20 As for Ishmael, I will bless him also,
just as you have asked.
I will make him extremely fruitful
and multiply his descendants.
He will become the father of twelve princes,
and I will make him a great nation.

21 But My Covenant will be confirmed with Isaac,
who will be born to you and Sarah
about this time next year.”

22 When God had finished speaking,
he left Abraham.

23 On that very day Abraham took his son, **Ishmael**,
and **every male in his household**,
including **those born there & those he had bought**.
Then he circumcised them,
cutting off their foreskins,
just as God had told him.

24 Abraham was **ninety-nine** years old when he was circumcised,

25 and Ishmael, his son, was **thirteen**.

26 Both Abraham and his son, Ishmael, were circumcised on that same day,

27 along with all the other men and boys of the household, whether they were born there or bought as servants.

All were circumcised with him.



Romans 2:25-29 NLT

- 25 The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile.
- 26 And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people?
- 27 In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it.

28 For you are not a **true Jew** just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the **ceremony of circumcision**. a

29 No, **a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God**. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a **change of heart** produced by the Spirit.

And a person with **a changed heart** seeks praise from God, not from people.



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