

Genesis 17

Scriptures:

Genesis 16:16-17:1 -

Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

Notes:

Thirteen years pass between chapters 16 and 17 (Gen. 16:16 & 17:1). We are not told what happens in that time. We can only imagine the conflict of this divided home. Sarai despised Hagar and Ishmael was a wild one.

For thirteen years there has been silence from God and nothing worth noting happens in Abram's life.

It had been twenty-three years since God initially promised to make a great nation from Abram. For the last thirteen years Abram has been living under the false idea that Ishmael was the fulfilment of the promise. One might wonder, as he looked at the unruly of Ishmael there wasn't something wrong.

We can't know for certain if God delayed fulfilling the promise of an heir because of Abram's mistake with Hagar. As far as we can tell, God was silent during those thirteen years.

In this chapter all the threads of the promises God has made to Abraham are woven together into what we call the Abrahamic covenant.

Everything going on in the Middle East is an outworking of the clauses of this covenant.

Title ideas:
A Story

Scriptures:
Exodus 6:3 - And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them."

¹ When AAbram was ninety-nine years old, the

†Lord appeared to AAbram and said to him, †"I am

7200 – (visibly)

†Almighty God; walk before †Me and be blameless.

7706 – "Shaddai"

410 – "el"

1980 – 'To be or act in association with someone.'

3942 -

8549 – with integrity, without blemish, complete, full, perfect – 'Free of guilt; not subject to blame.'

Notes:
'Almighty God' – first occurrence – In the Hebrew = God Almighty – "El Shaddai" Signifies God's omnipotence and sovereignty.

'Almighty God' – "...it describes the God who makes things happen by means of His majestic power and might." Youngblood (Hughes, 2004) page 246

This was the name by which the patriarchs came to know God (Exo. 6:3).

"The way we live is determined by what we think of God." (Hughes, 2004) page 246

"Any thoughts of a God less potent than the God of Abram will shrink your soul and neutralize your faith." (Hughes, 2004) page 246

'appeared' – Christophany?

'walk before' – how do you explain that as it relates to God?

Scriptures:

² And †I will make †My covenant between †Me and

5414 – give, bestow, cause

1285 -

Notes:

†you, and will multiply †you exceedingly."

7235 - enlarge

Scriptures:

³ Then A^Abram fell on his ^Aface, and G⁺od talked

Notes:

with ^Ahim, saying:

Scriptures:

⁴ “As for M⁺e, behold, M⁺y c⁺ovenant is with y^Aou,

1285 -

Notes:

and y^Aou shall be a father of many [☆]nations ^{Isam}.

Scriptures:

⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but

87 – high father

Notes:
Naming is an authoritative act of
sovereignty.

your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you

85 – father of a
multitude

a father of many nations.

Scriptures:
Revelation 19:16 -
And He has on His robe and
on His thigh a name
written:

KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS

⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will

6500 -

Notes:
'kings' – fulfilled in the founding of
a line of kings in the Davidic dynasty
about one thousand years later.
Ultimately fulfilled one thousand
years after that when the King of
kings, Jesus Christ came onto the
scene ([Rev. 19:16](#)).

make nations of you, and ^{king} kings shall come from

you.

Scriptures:

⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me

Notes:

and you and your descendants after you in their

generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be

5769 – time out of
mind, the
vanishing point

God to you and your descendants after you.

Scriptures:

⁸ Also I give to you and your descendants after

Notes:

you the land in which you are a stranger, all the

4033 - sojourner

land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and

5769 -

272 -

I will be their God.”

Scriptures:

⁹ And God said to Abraham: “As for you,

Notes:

you shall keep My covenant, you and your

8104 – guard,
protect, observe

descendants after you throughout their

generations.

Scriptures:

¹⁰ This ~~is~~ My covenant which you shall keep,

Notes:
Circumcision did not originate here.
It had been practiced by other
cultures for hundreds of years. God
took it and gave it a new meaning.

between Me and you and your descendants after

you: Every male child among you

shall be circumcised;

4135 – to blunt –
‘To have the
foreskin cut off
for ritual purposes
(of males).

Scriptures:

¹¹ and ^Ayou shall be circumcised in the flesh of

Notes:
Just as a wedding ring is a sign of a commitment to marriage, circumcision was to be a sign of a commitment to keep God's commands. But unlike a wedding ring, it couldn't be cast aside, thus symbolizing that the severe consequences of breaking the covenant.

^Ayour foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the

226 – mark,
token, signal

covenant between ~~Me~~ and ^Ayou.

¹² He who is eight days [♂] old among you ^A shall be

circumcised, every [♂] male child in your ^A generations,

he who is born in your ^A house or bought with

money from any foreigner who is not your ^A

descendant.

Scriptures:

¹³ He who is born in your ^Ahouse and he who is

Notes:

bought with your ^Amoney must be circumcised,

and My ⁺covenant shall be in your ^Aflesh for an

[⇒]everlasting covenant.

Scriptures:
John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

¹⁴ And the uncircumcised male [♂] child, who is not

Notes:
God makes it clear here that there is only one way, His way. There is only one way to be a part of the people of God – through circumcision. That didn't change with the new covenant, though the vehicle did. Rather coming to the Father through circumcision, we come to Him through Christ, and only through Christ ([John 14:6](#)). And just as someone would be cut off from the people of God without circumcision, people will be cut off from the kingdom of God without Christ.

circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that

person shall be cut off from his [✂] people;

3772 – 'To be separated from someone or something socially or relationally, conceived of as being cut off from someone.'

he has broken [✂] My covenant."

6565 – to violate

Scriptures:

15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your

Notes:

wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah

8297 -

8283 -

shall be her name.

Scriptures:

16 And ^I will ^S bless ^S her and also give ^A you a ^S son by

Notes:

1288 – ‘To invoke
(or enact) divine
favor, often implying
a positive disposition
or kind actions
toward the recipient.’

^S her; then ^I I will ^S bless ^S her, and ^S she shall be

a mother of nations; ^{king} kings of peoples shall be

from ^S her.”

Scriptures:

Romans 4:16-21 -

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and

6711 -

Notes:

"The absence of any correction for Abraham implied not that he lacked faith, but rather that his faith was limited." (Hughes, 2004) page 250

The Apostle Paul tells us that Abraham did have faith (Rom. 4:18-21).

said in his heart, "Shall *a child* be born to a man

who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah,

who is ninety years old, bear *a child*?"

Scriptures:

18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael

Notes:

might live before You!"

19 Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear

you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will

3327 – laughter –
(derived from
6711 – to laugh v.
17)

establish My covenant with him for an everlasting

covenant, *and* with his descendants after him.

Scriptures:

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I

Notes:

have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and

will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget

twelve princes, and I will make him a great

nation.

Scriptures:

21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac,

6965 -

Notes:

whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next

4150 – fixed time,
season

year.”

Scriptures:

22 Then He finished talking with him, and God

Notes:

went up from Abraham.

5927 - ascended

23 So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were

born in his house and all who were bought with

his money, every male among the men of

Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of

their foreskins that very same day, as God had

said to him.

Scriptures:

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

Notes:

was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Scriptures:

25 And Ishmael his son *was* thirteen years old

Notes:

Obedience is the surest sign of faith. Abraham proves that he believes in and trusts God by doing what God told him to do. And not just him, Abraham led his family and household by seeing to it that every male was circumcised.

when he was circumcised in the flesh of his

foreskin.

Scriptures:

26 That very same day [Ⓛ] ^A Abraham was circumcised,

Notes:

and his son [Ⓛ] Ishmael;

Scriptures:

27 and all the [Ⓛ] ^A men of his house, born in the house

Notes:

or bought with money from a foreigner, were

circumcised with him. ^A

Scriptures:

Matthew 26:27-28 - Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jeremiah 31:31-32 -

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

Notes:

There was pain and blood as Abraham obeyed God in faith and ushered in the old covenant. There was pain and blood on that Good Friday as Jesus died on the cross for our sins to usher in the new covenant (Matt. 26:27-28). This was prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31).

[Return to top](#)