



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Can You See Jesus in Me?

Genesis 17:1-27

Message #18 of 50 – S917

Sermon given on October 18, 2020

@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Can You See Jesus in Me?

Genesis 17:1-27

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 17**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- How do you know that God is real?
- What evidence do you have?
- What signs can you show me that point to God?
- How can you convince someone that God is real?
- What signs in this world point to Jesus?
- Today we will see some of the signs of God
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Can You See Jesus in Me?**
- Last time Sarai gets idea to help God
- Gives servant girl Hagar – bears son Ishmael
- Abram = 86 years old
- **Genesis 17:1-2**
- 13 years passed since last appearance of God
- For 13 years they have been living with the idea that their plan worked
- Ishmael is the answer to God's promise of a son for Abram
- Identifies self as 'Almighty God' – El Shaddai – first occurrence
- Pointing to God's omnipotence, ability to provide – to do
- 2 instructions to Abram
- First - 'walk before me' - Walk as though eyes of Lord always on you
- They are – act that way
- 'be blameless' – does not mean be perfect
- 'spotless' – sacrifices – no obvious defects
- Means more – be whole - Complete, unqualified surrender to God
- Whole-hearted commitment to God
- God then confirms all the promises into a covenant
- **Genesis 17:3-8**

- Changes name from Abram ‘exalted father’
- To Abraham ‘father of multitude of nations’
- Elaborates upon promise – ‘kings’
- 1,000 years later Saul/David
- 1,000 years after that Jesus - ‘king of the Jews’
- Last person to bear that title
- Will eventually return as **Revelation 19:16**

He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

- Elaborates further ‘everlasting covenant’ – this is the Abrahamic Covenant
 - Land is eternally promised to Abraham and his descendants
 - **Genesis 17:9**
 - Abraham to keep God’s covenant - ‘keep’ – guard, tend, preserve
 - God then gives Abraham the sign of the covenant
 - **Genesis 17:10-13**
 - Circumcision not new – practiced by some cultures for 1,000 years
 - Usually as rite of passage into manhood
 - Circumcision = ‘sign’ of the covenant
 - ‘sign’ = mark or signal
 - Meant to remind them of covenant relationship
 - Rainbow = sign of promise not to flood
 - 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.
 - Circumcision sign of relationship to God’s covenant
 - Not proof of their relationship with God
 - In the same way that a wedding ring is not proof of a God-glorifying relationship in marriage
 - Cutting away foreskin = cutting away flesh
 - Cutting away self-determination, self-will
 - Hebrews came to think circumcision made them right with God
 - Prophets tried to warn them – **Jeremiah 4:4 NIV**
- Circumcise yourself to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done – burn with no one to quench it.**

- Apostle Paul also talked about it **Colossians 2:11**
In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ...
- True circumcision not cutting away of the foreskin
- But cutting away of flesh's control over us
- Instead wholly committed to Christ
- Warns those that won't do this
- **Genesis 17:14**
- No half-way with God, His way or no way
- Be cut or be cut off
- No circumcision = no covenant relationship
- No circumcision of heart = no relationship w/God
- God then has word for Sarai
- **Genesis 17:15**
- Sarah = 'princess' - Naming is an authoritative act of sovereignty.
- God further describes the line of blessing
- **Genesis 17:16**
- Old, barren Sarah will be mother of multitudes - Kings will be in her lineage
- Abraham responds
- **Genesis 17:17-18**
- Abraham starts off well by humbling himself
- Abraham's faith can't handle all this - Too hard to believe He laughs out loud
- He's 99 – she's 89 and barren - It's impossible
- Gives God way out of an impossible promise
- Maybe God doesn't know that Sarah is barren and old
- Maybe thinking, we already took care of that!
- God shows incredible patience with Abraham
- **Genesis 17:19**
- No really – I said Sarah – I meant Sarah
- May not fully believe it but true
- Names boy Isaac = 'he laughs' – every time he hears or says the name Isaac, reminds him of laughing at God's omnipotent power
- Forever reminds him & us – don't laugh at God

- God responds to Abraham's request that Ishmael be blessed

- **Genesis 17:20**

- Abraham loved Ishmael – even though trouble-maker
- Wanted him blessed – not forgotten
- God blessed – past tense - =guaranteed
- 'but'

- **Genesis 17:21-22**

- Covenant promises are to Isaac, not Ishmael
- Multitude of nations & land
- God also sets time for Sarah of Sarah's delivery
- Soon as God leaves Abraham acts

- **Genesis 17:23-27**

- Abraham didn't waste any time
- Responded to and obeyed God immediately
- Even though involved pain & blood
- Reminds us of another that obeyed God
- Pain & blood – Jesus Christ
- His pain & blood ended old Covenant
- Ended bloody rites and sacrifices
- New Covenant in His blood
- Abraham & descendants family of God – circumcision
- Christians adopted into God's family – not by circumcision

- **Galatians 3:26-29**

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- God said to Abraham V.8 - 'I will be their God'
- Circumcision was their sign of that they had committed to that relationship
- What signs in your life say 'the One True God is my God'
- Is there any evidence that Jesus is real in your life?
- What signs should we look for in our lives?
- **Three Signs that Jesus is real in your life!**
- **First - Changed**

- One sign of God is a life that is changed
- God told Abraham – ‘walk before Me’ – ‘be blameless’
- Didn’t say – keep living way you are
- Said – change the way you are living

• ‘walk before me’ – walk as though I’m watching - **Hebrews 4:13**

There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

• Sign that Jesus is real = living like God watching every moment

• ‘be blameless’ – what that life should look like - **1 Peter 1:14-16**

As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’

• Blameless not ‘perfection’ but changing - How do we change? 2

Corinthians 3:18

We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- God’s Word is a mirror - In it we see the image of Jesus Christ
- To see change – see Jesus in Bible - Pray, ask God to show you Jesus
- Holy spirit to change you, you can’t change self
- Sign that Jesus is real in your life = changed life
- Second sign - **Circumcised**
- Not of the foreskin of your flesh, but your heart
- Abraham fell on his face before God
- Abraham’s heart was circumcised before his flesh was **Colossians**

2:11

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.

- Turn to Galatians 5
- Abraham responded to God’s presence
- Posture indicates relationship
- Can you stand in the presence of your God?
- Circumcised heart responds to the presence of God
- How does He want us to respond? **Galatians 5:22-23a**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

- Walk in the Spirit, bearing spiritual fruit
- Are you Christ’s – which fruits are evident?

- Let Spirit lead/teach you - Put off flesh, put on Spirit
- It's a matter of choice
- Signs that Jesus is real in your life = Changed life, circumcised heart
- Third sign - **Committed**
- As soon as God finished/ascended Abraham obeyed
- Sign that Jesus is real in your life is obedience to God
- Easy when doing what everyone else is doing
- Not so easy when it is against the flow – when it means pain and blood – maybe not literally - socially
- Abraham was committed to God
- See that fully in chapter 22 – sacrifice of Isaac
- Jesus said **John 14:23**

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...

- And in **Luke 6:46**

Why do you call me, 'Lord, lord,' and not do the things which I say?

- A sign of God is obedience to His revealed Word
- Jesus promised us life, and life more abundant
- That is not something we sit back and collect like a stimulus check
- It comes as we walk before the Lord
- Changing – looking into mirror of Word to see Jesus more clearly
- Circumcised – my heart belongs to God looking for spiritual fruit for Christ's glory
- Committed – to living my life for Christ, no matter what it might cost me
- We are saved, not just to go to heaven, but so that the rest of the world can see Jesus living in our lives **Colossians 1:27**

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- When you leave here today – let them see Jesus!
- **Pray!**