

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 17

In Genesis twelve, you were introduced to the Abrahamic Covenant. In Genesis fifteen, the covenant was actually made and witnessed through the ritual of the "blood ditch" as described in that chapter's reading. In this chapter, Genesis seventeen, the covenant is sealed and given a sign that would mark Abraham's seed throughout the generations, circumcision. Circumcision is a rite that was performed when the child was eight days old. There were physical and biological reasons for waiting until the eighth-day, as the blood after birth has enough clotting agencies to proceed with a cutting of the skin. Circumcision involved each male child's private part having the foreskin "cut away" and in doing so gave a distinct characteristic that is true of every Jewish male from that time to present day. This act had both physical and spiritual importance. This rite became the "mark or sign" of the Abrahamic Covenant.

This chapter is also significant in that from this chapter throughout the rest of time, Abram had a name change. God changed Abram's name from Abram (Av-Ram, Av or Ab means *father*, Ram is the word for *high or exalted* in Hebrew). Abram means *exalted father*. Abraham means father of *multitudes* or *father of many peoples/nations*. All of Abraham's sons and

descendants were circumcised from chapter seventeen forward, but Isaac was the son of Abraham's old age and the son through which God promised to fulfill all the details of the covenant He had sworn to Abraham (see chapter eighteen). Isaac was a miracle, born to a man of one hundred years and a woman who was ninety years old whose womb had already died within her as far as childbearing years. God supernaturally fulfilled the promise He made to Abram in chapter fifteen. The nation of Israel, as named after Jacob/Israel, Isaac's son, was brought into being supernaturally for a particular purpose. That purpose is only partially fulfilled by the birth, life, substitutionary death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Son of God and Messiah.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank God that there is nothing impossible with Him (Genesis 18:14). Whatever the age God is not bound in working in you or through you. Simply obey Him. In what ways has God worked in your life when it seemed impossible from a human perspective? Has that ever happened to you? If so, take a few minutes and reflect on that event(s). Has there been growth in your trusting God since then or have you fallen back into a routine that is not pleasing to Him? Examine your life and walk in trust. God is trustworthy.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
