

Lesson: CIRCUMCISION OF ABRAHAM

We will pause at Col. 2:11-15 before discussing the Circumcision by Christ. It is important to teach on the origin of biblical circumcision from Gen.17:9-14.

Biblical circumcision was given by God to Abraham when he was 99 (17:1). This was 24 years after leaving the Haran to go to Promised Land (Gen.12:1-5/ age of 75).

This lesson will study **five aspects** of the Circumcision of Abraham.

1. Abraham's circumcision was given by El Shaddai God Almighty as a sign of Abrahamic Covenant (Gen.17:1).

Gen.17:1-27 can be divided into four parts for study: 17:1-8; 17:9-14; 17:15-22; and 17:23-27.

We will be studying Gen.17:9-14 and the circumcision of Abraham. The Circumcision of Abraham was a sign of an everlasting covenant.

- **Everlasting Covenant** is mentioned three times (17:7, 13, 19)
 - **"My (El Shaddai) Covenant"** is mentioned seven times (17:2, 4, 7, 10, 14, 19, 21).
2. The **Abrahamic Covenant** consisted of three major promises recorded in Gen.12:1-3.
 - Promise of land (12:1; 13:15-17).
 - Promise of seed (12:3; 13:16)
 - Promise of blessings (12:1-3/ grace blessing/ barak is used 4 times).

Remember, it is referred to as an Everlasting Covenant of El Shaddai.

3. Gen.17:9-14 tells us that Abrahamic Covenant was a sign of Importance to All the nations of the world. "And in you **ALL the families of the earth** will be blessed." (12:3/ USA/ Moody, AL.)

Paul taught that "All the FAMILIES of the earth could be blessed **in CHRIST** (Gal.3:6-18)."

"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. **The Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning to many people**, but 'and to **your seed**,' meaning one person, who is Christ." (Gal.3:16)

4. In **Gal.3:6-18**, Paul taught that the Circumcision of Abraham was a sign of an unconditional and everlasting covenant to everyone who believes that Jesus Christ died for their sins was buried and raised on the third day

“Those who **believe are children** of Abraham (Gal.3:7).”

“**Scriptures** (*Gen.12 and 17*) foresaw that God would justify the **Gentiles by faith** and announced **the gospel** in advance to Abraham: ‘*All the nations will be blessed through you.*’ So **those who have faith are blessed** along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Gal.3:8-9)

5. “Christ **redeemed us from the curse** of the Law (ML) **by becoming a curse for us**, for it is **written**: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree (**Deut.21:23**).’ Christ **redeemed us in order** that the blessing given to Abraham **might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus**, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.” (**Gal.3:13-14/ 1Cor 15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9**)

- In **OC**, it was a **prophetic gospel**. Circumcision of Abraham was a sign of the first coming of Christ.
- In **NC**, it is a **historical gospel**. Circumcision of Christ is the sign of the Second Coming of Christ.
- **Matthew’s genealogy** starts with **Abraham to Jesus Christ** (Matt.1:1-17).

WARNING: Abrahamic Covenant issues a warning to **all nations** regarding **antisemitism** – “*I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you (Gen.12:3/ El Shaddai).*”