

The Covenant of Circumcision

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Sarai and Hagar Genesis 16

Man's Way vs God's Way

- *Barren women:* Leah, Samson's mom (Judges 13:2,3), Hannah, The Shunammite Woman (2 Kings 4:16-17), Elizabeth (Luke 1)
 - Isaiah 54:1 *"the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married"*
- God has solemnly promised Abram an heir (*"from your own body"* NKJV 5:4).
- Sarai and Abram have a plan.
- Hagar was a servant (12:16) obtained from Egypt?
- Ishmael's Generation (25:12-18).
- Allegory of Law/Slavery vs Faith/Freedom Galatians 4:21-31.

The Covenant of Circumcision

Genesis 17:1-14

- 13 years have elapsed, and the Lord speaks to Abraham “*I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*” (v.1-2)
 - *El Shaddai* = God Almighty = The God who is sufficient.
- New Names for Abram and Sarai : The promised son will soon be born from their flesh.
- *Sign of circumcision* = cutting of the flesh of the male procreative organ. It would be a clear, personal reminder of God’s promise to bring a son.
- Jesus associates physical circumcision with Sabbath and Mosaic Law (John 7:22).

What happened to circumcision?

Shadows	Reality
<p>Circumcision Sabbath Sacrifices</p> <p><i>Colossians 2:16</i></p> <p><i>Hebrews 10:1</i></p>	<p>Jesus</p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:11-22</i></p>

The Eighth Day

He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised.

Genesis 17:12

- The early church (e.g., Justin Martyr) called the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection, the *eighth day*.
 - 7 creations days correspond to this life, immortality is ushered in on the 8th day.
- Feast of Tabernacles = eighth day sabbath (Leviticus 23:36-39, Numbers 29:35).
 - *"The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us"* (John 1:14). The incarnation was to restore the lost presence of God to His people.
 - Ezekiel 43:27 : reordering of sacrifices to the eighth day.
 - Revelation 22:3 : God tabernacles with man — relationship with God is restored.
- *Flesh* often coincides with our mortality and sin and is connected with circumcision. (17:12; Leviticus 12:3, Colossians 2:11).
- The "putting off of flesh" is the putting on of immortality (1 Corinthians 15:50).
- It is through Christ's death and resurrection that we receive immortality.

Colossians 2:8-15

*See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. **In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

Circumcision of the Heart

- There first Great Commandment — full commitment to God (Deuteronomy 10:12,16).
- Circumcision of heart performed by God when the Land is restored (Deuteronomy 30:6).
- It is the heart that God seeks (Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:29).
- The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:33).