

GENESIS 17 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE SIGN OF THE COVENANT - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

After 13 more years pass, Abram's body has become a dried up tree without sap, and Sarah's womb at 90 years of age has become a wilted flower. It would require a miracle from the Author of Life to bring about progeny from this senior couple. In Genesis 17, four new developments arise in the story. Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks below.

- There was a new revelation of God as the _____ (17:1).
- There was a new demand by God to _____ before him and be _____ (17:1).
- There was a new identification from God which included new names _____ (17:5) and _____ (17:15), and a new practice called _____ (17:10-11).
- There was a new offspring identified and named _____ (17:16, 19).

Today, many people want to adopt a god of their own making. They say things like, "I like to think of God as..." Or they say, "My God isn't like that." Many people want to pick and choose what they will believe and what they will do. They act as though God were interviewing for the job position of "personal deity." People want things that work for them, and in so doing they don't want a god who is really God. In (Genesis 17:1) we see something very different. We meet "God Almighty" who commands Abram.

- How would you describe the kind of God we see in Genesis 17? Does he match your perception of deity?
- Notice God's revelation of himself in Genesis 17:1, and Abram's humble response in Genesis 17:3. What does this teach us about who God is, who we are, and how we should respond to him?

God tells Abram, "Walk before me, and be blameless." What do you think he meant by that? Look up the following verses from Ephesians and see if you can distill God's goal for his followers concerning their "walk" (Ephesians 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15). What are some words used to describe a life of faithful obedience? How can you walk with God blamelessly this week?

- I am no longer walking the way many non-Christians walk (Ephesians 4:17)
Dissatisfied | -1-2-3-4-5- | Satisfied (Circle a number)
- I am walking in love, as Christ loved me (Ephesians 5:1)
Dissatisfied | -1-2-3-4-5- | Satisfied (Circle a number)
- I am walking in the light (Ephesians 5:8)
Dissatisfied | -1-2-3-4-5- | Satisfied (Circle a number)

Genesis 12 and 17 have some parallels worth noting. Look at the table below and compare the commands, promise, and response in both chapters. It seems to indicate that the Lord's pledge of promise is accompanied with a call to obedient faith.

GENESIS 12	GENESIS 17
Command (v. 1) "go"	Command (v. 1) "walk"
Command (v. 2) "be a blessing"	Command (v. 1) "be blameless"
Promise (v. 2) "great nation"	Promise (v. 2) "multiply you greatly"
Response (v. 4) "so Abram went"	Response (v. 3) "Abram fell on his face"

- Name three promises that God has made to you.
- Are you living in obedient faith as a recipient of those promises?

