

An Expository Study of the Book of Genesis



***God Wants to
Change Your Name***

Chapter 17-18

October 19, 2011

Chapter 17

Summary

We are not called to work for God but to allow God to work through us.

Genesis 16...

...demonstrates the importance of a man assuming the spiritual leadership of his home, and the consequences of failing to do so.

Genesis 17...

...shows us how life is a mixture of divine sovereignty and human responsibility and how God seeks to cultivate obedience in the life of Abraham and in ours.

Genesis 17:1-8

*God is a
covenant-
keeping God*



Genesis 17:1

***God speaks to
Abraham***

Genesis 17:1

“Now when Abram was *ninety-nine years old*, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless”

These words...

- ...from God broke thirteen years of silence. God had not spoken to Abraham since the “Hagar Situation”.

God referred...

*...to Himself as “**EI Shaddai**”, a names which emphasizes His ultimate power over nature ...the miracle-working God*

God's word...

***...I will keep my
promises to
you...conduct
yourself
accordingly***

Abram's response...

...he fell on his face and God continue to speak to him

God reaffirmed...

*...his **promise** and He **changes** Abram's name (Exalted father) to Abraham (Father of a multitude)*

Abraham

- At the age of 99 years Abram had a life-changing event that would alter his life and the lives of his descendants forever. In that life-changing event, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "*Father of many nations.*"

Jacob

- On route back home, the night before entering into Canaan, Jacob wrestled with an angel of God until daybreak. In that fight, he was injured in the hollow of his thigh, begging to be blessed of God. It was then that God changed his name from Jacob to Israel, changing it from deceiver to prince.

Simon Peter

- God had a divine plan for Peter. He changed his name from Simon (*to hear*) to Peter, which means stone. While Jesus called Himself the rock, He called Peter a stone. Peter, therefore was called and destined by God for a new mission in life - to begin the Church that was founded on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers

- **While everyone has earthly given names in this dimension on earth, we, as believers in Christ, are all promised a new spiritual name when we reach our eternal promised destination - our new home in heaven. Jesus has given us His name, which is a sign of his authority over us. While it remains a secret in this dimension, it is already engraved on a beautiful white stone just waiting for our arrival in our permanent eternal promised destination.**
- ***Rev 2:17...To him that overcomes...And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.***

Genesis 17:6-8

I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. ***I will*** establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. ***I will*** give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and ***I will*** be their God.”



**God never
makes...**

***...promises that
He is unwilling or
unable to keep.***

Genesis 17:9-27

*God expects our
obedience.*

Genesis 17:9-10

God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.

Circumcision...

...a reminder of God's promise about his progeny

...a reminder of sexual and spiritual fidelity

...a reminder of our attitude toward the flesh

Genesis 17:17-19

Then Abraham fell on his face ***and laughed***, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear *a child*?” And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” But God said, “No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

If you had been...

***...following God for
24 years, you were
99 years old and
your wife was 90,
you might laugh at
the thought of
having a child.***

Why does God...

...delay?

***He waits for us
to exhaust our
own resources
and turn to Him.***

Biblical obedience...

...is complete
(17:23,27)

...is prompt
(17:23,26)

Chapter 18

Summary

We should not underestimate the power of intercession of the magnitude of God's compassion.

Genesis 18...

*...shows us that we
can have an*

intimate

relationship with

God that begins

with spending time

with Him.

Genesis 18:1-8

Abraham is confronted by three individuals, one of them likely the pre-incarnate Christ and they shared a time of intimate fellowship.

Genesis 18:3...

...lets us know that Abraham recognized who Jesus was and earnestly desired to have fellowship with Him.

Genesis 18:9-15

Sarah is the central figure in verses 9-15. She had been infertile all her life, was now post-menopausal and she laughed at the prospect of giving birth.

Genesis 18:16-33

God wants to
change our *thinking*
about Him because
right *living* comes
out of right *thinking*.

Genesis 18:16-21

***Understanding
God's Plan and
Purpose***

Abraham walked...

***...with God and was
able to discern His
plans and His
purpose.***

A parent transmits...

- **...grace to his children by godly parenting. It does not happen automatically.**

Genesis 18:22-33

Understanding God's Justice and Grace

Genesis 18:22-26

22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. Abraham came near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? **25** Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” o the LORD said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account.”

Abraham...

- ...moves from talking with God about the fulfillment of the covenant to concern for others.

An intercessor...

- ...is one who stands between God and another and petitions God on their behalf. Jesus is interceding for us at this very moment.

Intercession...

- ...does not change God's plans. It is designed to change us...to help us see God's justice and His grace in clearer perspective.

Abraham did...

...change God's mind.

God informed

Abraham of His plan

and His purpose so

that He could

demonstrate justice,

compassion and

mercy.

Lesson 1

- God allows us to intercede for others so that He can show that He is a God of justice and a God of mercy.

Lesson 2

- God does not delight in destroying the *wicked.*

Lesson 3

- We should never *underestimate* the power of intercession or the *magnitude* of God's compassion.