



A Contract Worth Signing

September 10, 2017

Genesis 17:1-14

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless’” (Genesis 17:1).

When it comes to serving the LORD, age and ability do not seem to be factors, because the LORD is God Almighty. God will do all that He wisely deems important or necessary in the world and in our lives. When David was only a boy, God empowered him to kill a giant to save the kingdom, and later David became the King. When Abram was ninety-nine and it was physically impossible for Sarai and him to have a son, God made a solemn covenant with him and his descendants and promised him a son. Though only one son by Sarai was important to Abram and Sarai, God pledged even more: Abram’s multitude of descendants would include nations and kings, and history shows God did all He promised. Abram would have his name changed from Abram, which means “father” or “high-father” to Abraham which means “father of a multitude.” Sarai’s name was changed to Sarah, and Abraham and Sarah became examples of the power of almighty God to work wonders through anyone’s life. When the LORD appeared to Abraham, God told him “walk before me faithfully and be blameless.” God required Abraham to trust Him, to believe His words, and to walk blameless by faith (God will never say, “It’s okay to sin a little”). God also required Abraham and all his male descendants to sign the covenant or contract through the rite of circumcision; a contract they signed in their flesh. When Abraham’s descendants faithfully circumcised their sons, they showed that they accepted God’s covenant to be their God and the God of their families.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God waited until Abram was ninety-nine years old before speaking to him again?

2. How did God describe Himself and what was the very first thing God commanded Abram to do?

3. What was Abram's response when God spoke to him?

4. What is one difference between God's covenant with Noah and His covenant with Abraham?

5. In His covenant, what two blessings did God promise Abraham and His descendants?

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