

Covenant Confirmation with a Covenant Sign **Genesis 17:1-27**

God reaffirms His covenant plus gives Abram a new name. 1-8

- God adds covenant specifics, see Gen. 15:1-19 and 12:1-3, 13:14-17.
- God expects blessed Abram to walk/be blameless before Him, which recalls 6:9 and is also a pattern for us, Eph. 1:3, 4:1, 17, II Pt 3:13, 14.
- Abram's vast future posterity make for an appropriate new name.

Abraham is given circumcision as a covenant sign. 9-14

- An immediate example of *walking with God* requires accepting the sign of circumcision. See Jer. 4:4, Rom 2:28, 29, 4:9-11, Col. 2:9-11.
 - This sign = a reminder of separation to God plus separation from . . .

God affirms Sarah will be a mother plus gives her a new name.

15-22

- Sarai is explicitly included in these promises so her name is changed. Abram's laughter reveals he had given up on Sarah having a child.
- Ishmael will yet be blessed. What do the 12 princes remind us of?
- God predicts Sarah will bear Isaac next year (21), and she will also laugh (18:12). This will make for an appropriate name for their child.

Abraham carries out God's command of circumcision. 23-27

Prompt obedience shows Abram's conviction in God's promises.



What does this long, drawn out episode Abraham and Sarah have with conceiving a child suggest about God's view of time?

How should this episode affect our view of time and our view of God's promises?