

Behold My Covenant

Intro:

After 13 years of silence our chapter begins with an impossible promise

sound familiar?

Problem:

circumcision didn't save Abraham - Rom 4:1-12

That doesn't mean that it was unimportant - ex 4:21-26

the Jews missed Jesus because they couldn't remember the promises of God because they had twisted the meaning of circumcision into self righteousness

they couldn't recognize the presence of God because they had corrupted the meaning of the passover

and so they couldn't respond to Christ when He came and with callous hearts ended up murdering Him on the passover

God wants us to not only remember His impossible promises, He wants us to recognize them for what they are and respond to them where we are at

Main Idea:

God makes impossible promises

He wants us to remember them

He wants us to recognize them

He wants us to respond to them...

Implication:

...now

baptism is about remembering, recognizing, and responding to the impossible promises of God right where you are at - Rom 6:1-14

Application:

Abraham did it at 99 years old - Gen 17:1

this sermon is not about circumcision, it is not about the Lord's table, it is not really about baptism

it is about truly seeing Christ - 2 Cor 1:20

Abraham saw Him - Jn 8:56

he remembered the impossible promises of God, he recognized them from afar and responded to them where he was at and circumcised himself and his people - Heb 11:8-16

The way God has given us to remember, recognize and respond to the impossible promises of God today is through baptism and the Lord's table - these are our aids to remember Him, to recognize Him and to respond to Him until He comes back - acts 2:41-42

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-baptism.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/communion-Christian.html>

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God makes impossible promises

Gen. 17:1 ¶ **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 (wholly committed),

Gen. 17:2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."

Gen. 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,

Gen. 17:4 **"Behold, my covenant** is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

Gen. 17:5 No longer shall your name be called Abram (exalted father), but your name shall be Abraham (father of multitude), for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. (think of the mockery of wearing that name)

Gen. 17:6 **I will** make you exceedingly fruitful, and **I will** make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.

Gen. 17:7 And **I will** establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Gen. 17:8 And **I will** give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and **I will** be their God."

99 years old

- Gen 16:16 (13 years of silence- impossible)

behold my covenant

- Gen 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-17 (promise)

Abraham

Matt 16:16-18 (ironic name for now)

He wants us to remember them

Gen. 17:9 ¶ And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

Gen. 17:10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Gen. 17:11 **You shall be circumcised** in the flesh of your foreskins (descendants are God's, set apart people), and it shall be **a sign of the covenant** between me and you.

Gen. 17:12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male **throughout your generations**, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,

Gen. 17:13 both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.

Gen. 17:14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

circumcised

- Rom 2:25-29 (outward sign of inward citizenship)

- Matt 26:1-2 (like the passover it was about

remembrance)

- Matt 26:26-29 (in NT a new sign)

- 1 Cor 10:14-17 (for a new people)

- 1 Cor 11:23-26 (still about remembering)

He wants us to recognize them

Gen. 17:15 ¶ And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

Gen. 17:16 **I will** bless her, and moreover, **I will** give you a son by her. **I will** bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Gen. 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Gen. 17:18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"

Gen. 17:19 God said, **"No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son**, and you shall call his name Isaac. **I will** establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

Gen. 17:20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and **will** make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and **I will** make him into a great nation.

Gen. 17:21 But **I will** establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

laughed

Gen 18:12; 21:6 (after 13 years of silence

impossible is possible- sarah's womb was a tomb))

- Lk 1:5-25, 57-79 (after 480 years of silence

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john = Yahweh is gracious)

He wants us to respond to them

Gen. 17:22 ¶ When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

Gen. 17:23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him.

Gen. 17:24 **Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.**

Gen. 17:25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen. 17:26 That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.

Gen. 17:27 And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

circumcised

- Phil 3:1-3 (respond to right promise)

- Gal 5:1-12 (our context matters)

- Gal 3:23-29 (new response)

- Col 2:8-15 (new picture)

(spiritual cutting away old nature not at birth but new

birth - no infant baptism)

Now

implication/application