

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 5

Gen. 17

Getting Started

- ❖ How would you say your view of God is different now compared to when you were young or not a Christian? How do you understand God to be now compared to then?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Creator of the Covenant (v.1-3)
 - A. God reveals Himself in a new way, as “El Shaddai”.
 - B. God reveals the overarching condition for being in covenant relationship with Him-- to walk before Him and be blameless.
 - C. The revelation has definite implications to us.
2. The Essence of the Covenant (v.4-10; 15-21)
 - A. God’s Obligation: “I will be God to you.” (Identity, Inheritance, Security, Posterity)
 - B. Abraham’s Obligation: “You shall keep my covenant.” (Circumcise the males)
3. The Sign of the Covenant (v.11-14; 22-27)
 - A. The promises/prophecies of this covenant point us to the New Covenant.
 - B. Verse 6 is our point of solidarity with Abraham as we trust in the good news of the New Covenant.
 - C. The New Testament’s usage of verse 6 helps us understand what was happening between God and Abraham in Genesis 15.
4. The Lessons of the Abrahamic Covenant

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read all of chapter 17 and answer the following:
 - How did God introduce Himself to Abraham and what did he ask him to do? What did God mean by the overarching stipulation He gave Abraham in verse 1?
 - Why did God change Abram’s name to Abraham? What did the names mean and what did this name change signify and tell us about God?
 - Did the covenant blessings affect Abraham only? Why is it significant that God promised to be Abraham’s God and the God of his descendants as well?
 - How does the biblical understanding of God, as the covenant initiator and covenant keeper, go against popular views of God in our society?

Apply It!

- ❖ For Christians, how is it true that we must accept God on his terms or accept the consequences?
- ❖ In what ways have you or people/churches you know projected their own ideas upon God, essentially “recreating Him in your/their image”?
- ❖ God displayed ownership of Abraham’s life by changing his name and requiring circumcision. How does he display ownership of your life?

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Think About It!

In contrast to God's covenant at Sinai, which had ten covenant stipulations (the decalogue), here there is only one covenant stipulation: "Every male among you shall be circumcised." Why just one stipulation? Derek Kidner explains: "To be committed was all. Circumcision was God's brand; the moral implications could be left unwritten (until Sinai), for one was pledged to a Master, only secondarily to a way of life." But in the very next chapter that way of life is already summarized: "to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice" (Gen.18:19). (Dr. Sidney Greidanus)

NOTE: Study questions for this year's annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 21, 2021 | First Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP SONGS

OPEN UP THE HEAVENS

Words & Music by James McDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard, Andi Rozier, 2012

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name,
Calling out to You. Your glory like a fire awakening desire,
Will burn our hearts with truth. You're the reason we're here;
You're the reason we're singing.

*Open up the heavens, we want to see You. Open up the floodgates,
a mighty river flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise.*

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face,
We're looking to the sky. Descending like a cloud,
You're standing with us now, Lord unveil our eyes.

Show us, show us Your glory. Show us, who us Your power.
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord.

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell, 2019

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest the poor.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

MY JESUS I LOVE THEE

Words by W. Featherstone, 1864 / Music by Adoniram Gordon, 1894

My Jesus I love Thee, I know thou art mine;
for Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me;
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight;
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

GOOD GOOD FATHER

Words and Music by Paul Barrett and Anthony Brown, 2014

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like,
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night.
You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone.

*You're a good, good, Father, it's who You are. It's who You are;
it's who You are. I'm loved by You, it's who I am, it's who I am.*

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide.
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide
Because You know just what we need before we say a word.

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak. Peace so unexplainable
I can hard think as You call me deeper still as You call me
deeper still; As You call me deeper still into love, love, love.

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Words and Music by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan, 2018

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me. I was lost,
but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me. Oh, His love for me.

*Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.
In my Father's house is a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.*

Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me.

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 42; Jer. 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY | Ps. 121; Deut. 8:1-20; Hebrews 2:11-18; John 2:1-12

TUESDAY | Ps. 25; Deut. 9:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-11; John 2:13-22

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 51; Deut. 9:13-21; Heb. 3:12-19; John 2:23-3:15

THURSDAY | Ps. 27; Deut. 9:23-10:5; Hebrews 4:1-10; John 3:16-21

FRIDAY | Ps. 22; Deut. 10:12-22; Hebrews 4:11-16; John 3:22-36

SATURDAY | Ps. 31; Deut. 11:18-28; Hebrews 5:1-10; John 4:1-26

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Holy God, we thank you for keeping your covenant with us, for you are a God of mercy and steadfast love who does not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions. By your grace, would you lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation. As you were sustained in the wilderness for forty days, may we be filled with the Spirit when the enemy tempts us. Protect us and keep us that we would follow you and flee from sin. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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