

***The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 6***  
***Gen. 17***

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**Getting Started**

- ❖ When parents present their children for baptism, one of the vows is between our congregation and the family. We promise to support them in the raising of their child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. How do you participate in the fulfillment of that vow?

**Key Ideas for Discussion**

1. The Creator of the Covenant (v.1-3)
2. The Essence of the Covenant (v.4-10; 15-21)
3. The Sign of the Covenant (v.11-14; 22-27)
  - A. The meaning of “sign”. A “sign” signifies. In other words, it informs us, it announces, it symbolizes or illustrates an important reality that we need to understand.
  - B. What did circumcision signify?
    - i. Circumcision signified membership in the visible covenant family and participation in God’s blessings on His people
    - ii. Circumcision is a physical, outward sign which points to a deeper spiritual reality. (Everyone needs the spiritual uncleanness of their lives cut away and removed and this is something that must be done to us by God in salvation.)
    - iii. Participation in the physical sign did not guarantee membership in the invisible, eternal, covenant family of God.
    - iv. Circumcision involved the shedding of blood and pointed the OT Saints to their coming Messiah.
    - v. With circumcision the head of the household was expressing his willingness to devote everything and everyone in his home to the Lord.
4. The Lessons of the Abrahamic Covenant
  - A. As God did with the Abrahamic Covenant, He gave us a sign and seal with the New Covenant---- baptism.
  - B. God’s covenant people and their children should bear the sign of His covenant
  - C. Entering into a covenant relationship with God completely changes your life.

**Digging Deeper**

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read all of chapter 17 and answer the following:
  - How does the significance of circumcision prefigure the gospel?
  - How did the Israelites abuse and misunderstand circumcision?
  - Why is the “household” concept so significant in the Scriptures? How could this concept be a blessing? How could it lead to confusion, if any?
- ❖ Read Col. 2:11-12 and discuss that idea that what circumcision was to the Abrahamic and to the Old Covenants, baptism is to the New. In what way are they “two sides of the same coin”?

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**Apply It!**

- ❖ Have you been baptized? If so, when? If not, why not?
- ❖ Jerry laid out several reasons why our infants should receive the sign of the New Covenant, baptism. Which of the following reasons resonated with you the most and why?
  - Where does God in the New Covenant tell us to NOT apply the sign of His covenant to our children?
  - Is it in keeping with the character of God to exclude a group in the New Covenant that was included in the Old, especially when the New Covenant is more inclusive, less restrictive and “more gracious”?
  - If baptism in the New Covenant is “believer’s baptism” and not “covenantal baptism”, how do you explain all the references to “household baptisms”?
  - How would the typical Jew have understood Peter in Acts 2:38-39? (If it was now the practice to exclude their children and only apply the sign of the covenant to “believers”, how would Jewish converts have responded? Would it have been a “confusing issue” to them and other Jews spawning follow-on explanations in the epistles? What does it indicate that there isn’t follow-on explanations and teachings on this?)

**Think About It!**

*In contemporary culture we are not as accustomed to thinking of the head of a household as deciding the spiritual commitments of all its dependent members. However, the biblical perspective is that the head of the household represent the family to God and commits them to his worship. The representative role of heads of households has great scriptural precedent and rich implications in both the Old and the New Testaments (cf. Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 11:7). (Bryan Chapell)*

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 28, 2021 | Second Sunday in Lent

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### WORSHIP SONGS

#### CORNERSTONE

**Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, Edward Mote / Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, Will Bradberry, 2011**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone; weak made strong  
in the Savior's love. Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, may I then in him be found.  
Dressed in his righteousness alone; faultless, stand before the throne.

#### GRAVES INTO GARDENS

**Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Christ Brown, Steven Furtick and Tiffany Hammer, 2019**

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.  
Then You came along and put me back together.  
And every desire is now satisfied here in your love.

*Oh there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.*

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.  
May failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,  
and You still call me friend.  
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.  
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

You turn to mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.  
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can.  
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.  
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.

#### COME THOU FOUNT

**Words by Robert Robinson, 1758 / Music by Asahel Nettleton, 1825**

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise His name I'm fixed upon it, name of God's unchanging love.

Hither to Thy love has blessed me; Thou hast brought me to this  
place; I know Thy hand will bring me safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

#### A THOUSAND GENERATIONS

**Words and Music by Brenton Brown, 2014**

You have been faithful to a thousand generations, slow to anger,  
swift to bless. Your hand has guided us through every situation.  
Your lovingkindness hasn't failed us yet.

*God, you are my God; I will live to sing your praises. God, joy of  
my heart; you are my rock. You are faithful through the ages.*

The day will come when every eye on earth will see you, when  
every heart and every voice will say that you are perfect in your  
wisdom and your justice. Oh, how we long to see that glorious day!

You're God of heaven's armies, you're God of galaxies;  
valleys rise up to meet you, the mountains bow their knees.  
Creation stands in wonder at all that you've

#### I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD

**Words by Timothy Dwight, 1800 / Music by Aaron Williams, 1763**

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,  
The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God: her walls before thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;  
To her my cares and toils be giv'n, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heav'nly ways,  
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

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### DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 32; Jer. 1:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-23; Mark 3:31-4:9  
MONDAY | Ps. 80; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Romans 1:1-15; John 4:27-42  
TUESDAY | Ps. 34; Jeremiah 2:1-32; Romans 1:16-25; John 4:43-54  
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 5; Jer. 3:6-18; Romans 1:26-2:11; John 5:1-18  
THURSDAY | Ps. 126; Jer. 4:9-28; Romans 2:12-24; John 5:19-29  
FRIDAY | Ps. 105; Jeremiah 5:1-9; Romans 2:25-3:18; John 5:30-47  
SATURDAY | Ps. 43; Jeremiah 5:20-31; Romans 3:19-31; John 7:1-13

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Sovereign God, the covenants with your people stand forever. We  
praise you for your faithfulness and for keeping your promises to  
Abraham and all of his descendants, our spiritual family. Strengthen  
our faith, O Lord, and help us to place our trust in you. Empowered by  
the Spirit, may we hope against hope and give glory to you, even in  
desperate circumstances. Help us to deny ourselves and take up our  
cross and follow you. For we know that those who want to save their  
life will lose it, and those who lose their life for your sake, and for the  
sake of the gospel, will save it. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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