

Study Guide for August 16th, 2009. Life of Abraham: The Covenant (I) Genesis 17:1-14

Introduction: Describe a time you publicly made a commitment. Who witnessed your statement? What would be the consequences if you failed to follow through?

I. God appears and calls Abram: (Gen 17:1-2)

- A. How old is Abram? How many years elapsed since the events of Gen. 16?
- B. How does God identify himself? What is the significance of *El Shaddai*?
- C. What does God call Abram to do? What would that look like?
- D. What does God pledge / promise to Abram at this point? (vs. 2)
- E. When has God called you to a higher level of dedication? How did you respond?

II. God renames Abram and repeats the promise of the land. (Gen. 17:3-8)

- A. How does Abram respond? (vs. 3) What does this action reveal?
- B. God renames his servant. Abram means: _____ Abraham means: _____
- C. How does God elaborate the covenant? (Compare with Gen. 13:14-17 & 15:18-21)
 - 1) Who will come from Abraham?
 - 2) With whom will the covenant be established?
 - 3) How long will the covenant be in effect?
 - 4) What will become of the land where Abram is now an alien?
 - 5) What is the significance of God's claim, "I will be their God?"
- D. Relate Rom. 4:17 to these verses and consider how your faith in God could grow.

III. God establishes circumcision as the sign of the covenant. (Gen. 17:9-14)

- A. What are some of the reasons God chose circumcision as the sign of the covenant?
- B. What was this outward sign meant to represent? (See Deut. 10:16 & Jer. 4:3-4)
- C. Who is to be circumcised? What is represented in this inclusion? (Ex. 12:48-49)
- D. What warning is given for those not circumcised? (See also Ex. 4:24-26)
- E. What do you think it means for us as Christians to live a *circumcised* life?
Consider the following: 1) Rom. 2:25-29: 2) Philip. 3:2-4a: 3) Col. 2:9-15: