

AN EVERLASTING COVENANT
(Genesis 17:1-27)

- I. Restatement of the Covenant (Gen. 17:1-8)
 - A. Came after THIRTEEN YEARS of SILENCE (17:1a)
 - B. God's IDENTITY: *El Shaddai*, "GOD ALMIGHTY" (17:1b)
 - 1. Emphasizes God's OMNIPOTENCE
 - 2. Emphasizes God's SUFFICIENCY
 - C. God's COMMAND to Abram (17:1c)
 - 1. Live in the KNOWLEDGE of God's PRESENCE
 - 2. Be "BLAMELESS"
 - D. Abram's WORSHIP (17:3)
 - E. God's PROMISE (17:2, 4-8)
 - 1. Will MULTIPLY Abram EXCEEDINGLY
 - 2. Will make him the FATHER of many NATIONS
 - 3. Will change his NAME to ABRAHAM
 - 4. Will raise up KINGS from Abraham
 - 5. Will be the GOD of Abraham's DESCENDANTS forever
 - 6. Will include the GIFT of the LAND

- II. Established a Visible SEAL of the Covenant (Gen. 17:9-14)
 - A. Involved EVERY MALE of the household
 - B. Was the CONDITION for PARTICIPATION in the covenant
 - 1. Required BLOODSHED
 - 2. Applied to the means of TRANSMISSION of the SEED
 - 3. Applied to the means of TRANSMISSION of SIN
 - 4. “Cutting around” pictured complete ENCLOSURE in the PROTECTIVE and PRODUCTIVE will of God
 - 5. Visible, yet PRIVATE
 - 6. Surgical REMOVAL depicted separation from sins of the FLESH
 - 7. Refusal demonstrated unwillingness to FOLLOW GOD
- III. Announced PENDING Fulfillment (Gen. 17:15-22)
 - A. SARAH to be the MOTHER: new name “PRINCESS”
 - B. Abraham LAUGHED for JOY and SURPRISE (cf. Rom. 4:19-21)
 - C. Abraham interceded for ISHMAEL
 - D. God established a TIME: “NEXT YEAR”
 - E. God named the son ISAAC: “LAUGHTER” (cf. 18:13)
- IV. Abraham’s Faithful OBEDIENCE (Gen. 17:23-27)
 - A. Circumcised ALL the MEN, including HIMSELF (age 99) and ISHMAEL (age 13)
 - B. Demonstrated total SUBMISSION to and RELIANCE upon God (cf. 18:19)