

**Abram Had the Covenant Reconfirmed by God:
Aroused Faith — the Steps to a Fresh,
Stirring Experience with God
Genesis 17: 15—27**

1. *Abram had to change his relationship to his family*

a. God honoured the wife

1) Was given a new name:
Sarah (meaning princess)

2) Was blessed by God
and chosen to bear
the promised seed

b. The husband worshipped
in astonishment and prayer

1) He laughed in astonishment
and joy at God's blessing

2) He prayed for his son,
Ishmael

2. *Abram had to accept the will and purpose of God*

a. God's will and purpose

1) Sarah was to bear
the promised seed

2) The son was to be named
"Isaac"

3) The covenant was to be
everlasting

4) Ishmael was to be blessed
and to become a great nation
of twelve rulers

b. God's will reaffirmed:
The time of Isaac's birth was set

15 God also said to Abraham,

"As for Sarai your wife,
you are no longer to call her Sarai,
her name will be Sarah.

16 I will bless her and surely give you
a son by her. I will bless her
so that she will be a mother of nations;
kings of peoples will come from her."

17 Abraham fell face-down;
he laughed and said to himself,
"Will a son be born to a man
a hundred years old?
Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

18 And Abraham said to God,
"If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

19 Then God said,
"Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son,
and you will call him Isaac.
I will establish my covenant with him
as an everlasting covenant
for his descendants after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you:
I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful
and will greatly increase his numbers.
He will be the father of twelve rulers,
and I will make him into a great nation.

21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac,
whom Sarah will bear to you
by this time next year.

**3. *Making a public decision
and obeying God's instructions,
His Word***

- a. Abram led his whole household to obey God, to enter into the covenant relationship: Every male was circumcised

- b. Abram took the lead in the covenant relationship: He was circumcised

- c. Abram led his own child to obey God — at the early age of thirteen

- d. The account re-emphasized: To stress the importance of the covenant relationship

22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

23 On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.

24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised,

25 and his son Ishmael his son was thirteen;

26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that very day.

27 And every male in Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.