

## **The Covenant of Circumcision**

Genesis 17

by Don Falkos

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Abram was ninety-nine years old when the Lord said to him:

"I am God All-Powerful. Obey me always and do what is right. I now change your name from Abram to Abraham, Father of Many Nations. You and all your descendants must promise to obey me. As a sign of this promise, every man and boy currently in your household must be circumcised. And from now on, every male child must be circumcised when he is eight days old.

"Furthermore, your wife's name will no longer be Sarai. I am changing it to Sarah. I will bless her and the two of you will have a son. Sarah will have more descendants than can be counted and some of them will even be kings."

Abraham laughed, "Lord, I am nearly one hundred years old. And Sarah is ninety. How could we have a child? Let Ishmael inherit what you have promised me."

But God said, "No, Abraham! Because of what you have asked, I will bless Ishmael with many descendants. But you and Sarah will have a son of your own. His name will be Isaac, and he will be born about this time next year. The promises I have made will be for him and his descendants and I will be their God."

That very day, every man and boy in Abraham's household was circumcised including Abraham himself who was ninety-nine years old.