

Genesis 17

1 Now we need faith. Now his body is as good as dead. He is probably still thinking Ishmael is the promise of God. God asks of him perfection because He is perfect. Everything God does in Abram's life is perfect - that demands a perfect response. God also asks us to walk before Him. Consider the reality that you are in the presence of God as you go about your day.

2 To confirm a covenant the eldest sons were traded. Isaac would be God's heir and Jesus Abram's. Because we are his seed by faith, we are heirs of God. see Ro 8:17

3-5 ah added - sounds like the breath of Jah. 99 years of growing and learning, victory and mistakes, and now the breath of God makes him a new man. The old man has come to a point where he can't rely much on self anymore. Now God can work in Him.

6 I WILL not of your own ability, but a gift and work of God.

7 There are physical and spiritual implications. This is not one of the conditional covenants (as long as the seal is kept). This is a promise of God that will endure.

8-10 A covenant was often sealed with cutting the wrist or hand as Jesus' was. For man it was to be where he was most tender, his heart. Duet 30:6

11,12 Eight days is the time when the blood coagulates the quickest. Anyone raised in our home is a part of our home, not just birth children.

13,14 One condition, keeping the Holy Spirit and here is why Jesus said it was the unforgivable sin to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. It is refusing the sign of the covenant on our heart.

15-18 Abram thinks he has a better idea, Ishmael. God knows what He is after and that nothing is to hard for Him.

19-21 God now tells Abraham the fulfillment of the promise is only a year away.

22 How did the presence of God manifest Himself to Abraham? It seems to have been some visible means (see the word 'appeared' in vs 1) that ascended.

23 Abraham instantly obeyed. Must have been very traumatic for young Ishmael at the age of 13.

24-27 Like Noah before him, he obeyed completely all that God had instructed him.