

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (v27)

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT-Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Read the entire account in *ch17*. Where does the work of circumcision fit in the covenant? Review what happens before in *ch12-16*. *Just a few hints:* Gen *ch12* Abraham is chosen, *ch13* increase of wealth, *ch14* gives tithes to Melchizedek, possibly meets Jesus as Melchizedek, *ch15* covenant ceremony, reiteration of the promise, *ch16* birth of Ishmael (outside the promise). How does this fit with what St. Paul writes about Abraham? *See Romans 4:1-13; Galatians 4:21-31*
2. Five times in Genesis God is referred to as *El Shaddai* ("God Almighty" 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3; also *Exodus 6:3, Psalm 91:1*). What insight do these verses (& their surrounding context) add to God's covenant with Abraham?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. If Abraham obeys only after "it was reckoned unto him as righteousness" (*Genesis 15:6*), then in what way is this new obedience of good works necessary for us? *See Augsburg Confession: IV, V, VI; Formula of Concord: Epitome IV SC, FC available <bookofconcord.org>*
4. Name 5 or 6 times in your life when you couldn't see how God was going to get you through something, and yet you continued faithfully in prayer and other spiritual disciplines until the situation was resolved. Looking back how was God present and active *for you*?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. If all Christians are brothers and sisters through Holy Baptism, what causes us to not get along? Without compromising on correct doctrine how does the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*) or the Greatest Commandments (*Matthew 22:35-40*) or St. Paul's admonitions in *Romans 12* give us a path forward to a better life (and a better example to non- or not-yet-believers)?
6. What ways does your congregation show the abundant life promised by Jesus (*John 10:10, cf. 3:16-17*) to the neighbors? How do you (or can you) help others see this?

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Second Sunday in Lent

02.28.21

Series: God Keeps His Promises

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Promise of A Future

*God makes his people through faith and trust,
not our “best practices” and optimizations*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: “I will make my covenant between me and you [Abram],
and [I] will make you exceedingly numerous.” (v2)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (*Galatians 6:14*)

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