

December 26, 2010

“Laughter” Will Be Born

Genesis 17:15-27

Genesis 17:15-16 ¹⁵And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name 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 become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

- 15 Sarai and Sarah both mean princess. Any distinction in the meanings has been lost
16 "I will give you a son by her"- no more of this weaseling around with slave girls!
Nations and kings from her- this has always been the promise, but now God clarifies what Abraham should have been believing all along.

Genesis 17:17-19 ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed (Hebrew- Isaac-ed) and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" ¹⁹God said, "No, but (or verily) Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."

- 17 Abraham laughed- Luther and others say this laugh is from joy and not doubt
18 What does this mean? Abraham still cares for Ishmael, even in light of the promise in v16
19 "I will establish MY covenant with him"- singular person--- Unilateral Covenant
"Everlasting covenant for his offspring after him"- Gen 12's promise will pass through Isaac

Genesis 17:20-21 ²⁰As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

- 20 blessed, fruitful, multiply- Reminds you of what?
12 princes and a great nation- Reminds you of what?
21 "this time next year"- 25 years after the initial promise, a time frame is finally given

Genesis 17:22-27 ²²When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. ²³Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. ²⁴Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. ²⁷And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

- 22 This odd phrase simply closes this chapter in the narrative.
23 Ishmael, house servants, EVERY male "and he circumcised... as God had said to him."
Let's apply the good old Fundamentalist logic from Acts 16:15, 33, 18:8, 1 Cor 1:16
Does a "whole household" necessarily include infants?
Does that in any way prohibit infants?
What was done in the case of circumcision for Abraham and his whole household?

Psalm 103

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,

bless his holy name!

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits,

³who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD works righteousness

and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,

his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always chide,

nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west,

so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,

so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

¹⁴For he knows our frame;

he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass;

he flourishes like a flower of the field;

¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸to those who keep his covenant

and remember to do his commandments.

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Bless the LORD, O you his angels,

you mighty ones who do his word,

obeying the voice of his word!

²¹Bless the LORD, all his hosts,

his ministers, who do his will!

²²Bless the LORD, all his works,

in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning

Is now and will be forever Amen