

## **Covenant Character, Part II**

### **Genesis 17:9-27**

**Covenant Character = Humble submission before our sovereign God.**

**Covenant Character = Complete obedience to covenant obligations.**

#### **1. Abraham's Obligation.**

##### **a. The covenant comes with a mandatory command.**

**Genesis 17:9** | <sup>9</sup> And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. in performance.

##### **b. The covenant contains a memorial connotation.**

**Genesis 17:10-13** | <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you...<sup>13b</sup> So shall my covenant be in your flesh and everlasting covenant.

##### **c. The covenant carries material consequences.**

**Genesis 17:14** | <sup>14</sup> Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

#### **2. God's Oath.**

##### **a. God's oath regarding Sarah.**

**Genesis 17:15-17** | <sup>15</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I 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.” <sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed 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?”

**b. God’s oath regarding Isaac.**

**Genesis 17:18-19** | <sup>18</sup> And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” <sup>19</sup> God said, “No, but 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.

**c. God’s oath regarding Ishmael.**

**Genesis 17:20-21** | <sup>20</sup> As 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. <sup>21</sup> But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

**3. Abraham’s Obedience.**

**a. He obeyed immediately.**

**Genesis 17:22-23a** | <sup>22</sup> When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. <sup>23</sup> Then 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,

**b. He obeyed exactly.**

**Genesis 17:23b-24** | <sup>23b</sup> as God had said to him. <sup>24</sup> Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

**c. He obeyed completely.**

**Genesis 17:26-27** | <sup>26</sup> That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. <sup>27</sup> And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.