

Circumcision

by Chuck Smith

God establishes the covenant with Abraham through circumcision, symbolizing their commitment to follow God's laws and live a life of righteousness.

Duration: 25:15

Scripture: Genesis 17:9, Genesis 18:1-2, Genesis 18:22 - 19:1, Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Circumcision"

Description

In this sermon, Pastor Chuck Smith discusses the Institution of the Covenant of Circumcision as described in Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 9. He begins by describing how the Lord appeared to Abraham as he was sitting under a tree in the heat of the day. Three men suddenly appeared, and Abraham recognized them as special guests and worshiped them. Abraham offered them water to wash their feet and bread to refresh themselves. Pastor Chuck emphasizes the importance of walking before, with, and after the Lord, and encourages listeners to experience the love and power of God's spirit in their lives.

Transcript

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you With His Spirit and His love Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
 Oh, let Him have the things that mold you And His Spirit, like a dove Will descend upon your life and make you whole
 Welcome to The Word for Today Broadcast ministry of Pastor Chuck Smith Of Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, California
 Pastor Chuck is currently leading us on a verse-by-verse study Through the entire Bible
 And on today's edition of The Word for Today We'll be continuing our look at The Institution of the Covenant of Circumcision
 As we pick up in Genesis, chapter 17, verse 9 So let's follow along As Pastor Chuck Smith begins today's lesson
 God said to Abraham And God now changes and no longer calls him Abram But now to Abraham
 And God said to Abraham As for you You shall

keep My covenant You and your descendants after you throughout their generations And this is My covenant which you shall keep
 Between Me and you And your descendants after you Every male child among you shall be circumcised
 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins And it shall be a sign of the covenant
 Between Me and you He who is eight days old among you Shall be circumcised Every male child in your generations
 He who is born in your house Or bought with money from the stranger Who is not your descendant
 He who is born in your house And he who was bought with your money Must be circumcised
 My covenant shall be in your flesh For an everlasting covenant And the uncircumcised male child
 Who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin That person shall be cut off

from his

people He has broken My covenant So God established then this covenant with Abram Abraham And the covenant Was to be marked by circumcision Which again signified Not to live or walk after the flesh The cutting off of the life of the flesh In order that you might live the life of the spirit And God said that if They would not Have the right of circumcision Then they were to be cut off From being the people of God In other words you cannot be a man of God And walk after the flesh If you are to be a man of God It is only as you walk after the spirit That you are truly a man of God So God established the covenant And God continued to talk to Abraham in verse 15 Then God said to Abraham As for Sarai your wife You shall not call her name Sarai But Sarah The insertion of the H shall be her name

And I will bless her And also Notice now give you a son by her Ninety nine years old His body now dead And Sarah having passed through the time of childbearing And she shall be a mother of nations Actually from Sarah of course Isaac was born from Isaac Jacob and Esau Esau became A nation The Edomites And also of course Israel from Jacob Kings of peoples Shall be from her Then Abram fell on his face and laughed So Abram said to God Oh that Ishmael Might live before you Ishmael is now thirteen years old Abram is attached to him He is Abraham's son And God is now promising another heir Through Sarah but his attachment for Ishmael He asked God that Ishmael might also live before the Lord And so God said No Sarah your wife shall bear you a son You shall call his name Isaac Which is laughter I

will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant And with his descendants after him And as for Ishmael The name means God hears and God said I have heard you Behold I have blessed him I will make him fruitful And will multiply him exceedingly He shall beget twelve princes And I will make him a great nation And so in a little ways about the twenty-fifth chapter we'll read the descendants of Ishmael And out of them there are twelve Princes and so there are twelve tribes of Ishmael Even as there are twelve tribes of Israel But my covenant Yeah alright I'll go ahead and bless Ishmael too but my covenant I will establish with Isaac Whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year So now God is finally giving him a date This set time next year Then he finished talking with

him And God went up from Abraham So Abraham took Ishmael his son and all who were born in his house Those who were bought with money every male among the men of Abraham's house They circumcised the flesh of their foreskins That very same day as God had said to him And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised And that very same day Abraham was circumcised his son Ishmael And all of the men of the house born in the house bought with money They were circumcised with him So they established then this covenant with God We will be people who will live after the Spirit God we will walk after the Spirit We will deny ourselves to follow you Deny the flesh Then the Lord appeared to him

by the tabernacle trees of Mamre As he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day So he lifted up his eyes and he looked and behold three men were standing by him Now it doesn't say that they walked up or whatever It probably is that they just suddenly appeared there As he was sitting under the tree there in the heat of the day Probably in meditation all of a sudden there were three men standing there And when he saw them he ran from the tent door to meet them He evidently realized hey these are you know some special kind of guest And he bowed himself to the ground The word bowed there is actually worshipped in Hebrew And he said my Lord If I have now found favor in your sight do not pass by your servant Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet And rest yourselves

under the tree And I will bring a morsel of bread that you may refresh your hearts And after that you may pass by in as much as you have come to your servant And they said do as you have said So he is showing to them unusual courtesy and hospitality It is the Eastern custom of course to show hospitality As Abraham did to his guest So Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and he said quickly Make ready three measures of fine meal Knead it and make some cakes And Abraham ran out to the herd took a tender and good calf Gave it to a young man and he hastened to prepare it So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared Set it before them and he stood by them under the tree as they ate Now these are angels interestingly enough they are eating In case you wonder if angels eat

They are able to take on the form of humans They appeared to Abraham as three men But it would appear that they suddenly appeared In the New Testament we are told that we should entertain strangers You might be entertaining angels unawares And it probably comes back to this scripture Then they said to him where is Sarah your wife And he said here in the tent And of course in those tents there was the compartment for the women And they had to stay in their side there was the living room Where the man would entertain the guest Where is Sarah your wife He said here in the tent And he said I will certainly return to you according to the time of life And behold Sarah your wife shall have a son And Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him So here she is eavesdropping on the

whole thing Now Abraham and Sarah were old well advanced in age And Sarah had passed the age of childbearing Literally the manner of women had ceased to be with Sarah So the menopause she had gone through it Therefore Sarah laughed within herself Not out loud because she doesn't want to know she is standing right behind the flap there But she laughed within herself saying After I have grown old shall I have pleasure my Lord being old also And the Lord said to Abraham Why did Sarah laugh saying shall I surely bear a child since I am old And now this tremendous question Is anything too hard for God You see our problems usually stem from our limited concepts of God Because I am prone to think of God in terms of myself My concept of God is limited it is not a right concept of God And thus it

is reflected even in my attitude of prayer And how I pray for certain things There are some things I have no problem praying for You have a headache fine pray for you be glad too You've got leukemia Oh wait a minute Man brother I feel sorry for you that's terrible isn't it Well now is it hard for God to heal of leukemia Is that a tough one for God What am I doing I'm carrying man's limitations over to God Hey he said Is there anything too hard for God Here's Sarah laughing saying And he says why did Sarah laugh Oh I didn't laugh Yes you did But is there anything too hard for God Ponder on that question And as you really ponder on it You will have to come to the conclusion No there is nothing too hard for God Now we need to remember that when we pray We need to pray with that consciousness

There is nothing too hard for God You could even go one step further There is nothing hard for God Take out that word too There's just nothing hard for God Paul when he was praying Had asked God to do some pretty Far out miraculous things for the Ephesians And having concluded his prayer When he had finished his prayer he said Now unto him Who is able To do exceeding abundantly Above all that you may ask or even think Is anything too hard for God Hey he's able to do exceeding abundantly Above anything you could ask or think No there is nothing too hard for God That's the kind of God that we worship That's the kind of God we serve That's the kind of God Who reaches out to you That he might have fellowship with you That you through that fellowship Might be enhanced and blessed At the

appointed time he said I will return to you according to the time of life And Sarah shall have a son But Sarah denied it saying I didn't laugh For she was afraid and he said Oh but you did laugh Then the men

rose from there And they looked toward Sodom And Abram went with them to send them on the way And the Lord and interesting here You have the name Yahweh Or this tetragrammaton The vowel or the consonants rather The YHVH The Lord said Shall I hide from Abraham What I'm doing Since Abraham shall surely become a great mighty nation And all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him For I have known him in order that he may Command his children and his household after him That they keep the way of the Lord To do righteousness and justice That the Lord may bring to Abraham What he

has spoken to him And the Lord said Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great And because their sin is very grievous I will go down now and see Whether they have done altogether According to the outcry against it That has come to me And if not I will know So the Lord going down To Sodom To see the conditions that exist The outcry that has come to God Because of the unrighteousness You know There is an outcry to God Made in unrighteousness There is something that cries out to God When horrible actions are committed You remember God said to Cain Your brother's blood cried to me out of the ground The outcry Against that horrible deed of Cain Now the horrible deeds of unrighteousness In Sodom crying out to God God going down Of course he knew exactly what was going on there But

he is now dealing with Abraham So that Abraham knows that God is Just and righteous And going down Checking things out Then the men turned away from there And went towards Sodom Now there were three men But two of them were angels And one was the Lord himself And so it was none other than Jesus Christ The Yahweh of the Old Testament Who was here talking to Abraham And that's the only conclusion you can come to It is the word Yahweh is used And Abraham is talking to him as a man face to face And we read in the New Testament No man has seen God at any time But the only begotten Son Who is in the bosom of the Father He hath begotten him So Jesus Christ is the Yahweh of the Old Testament And the Lord is talking to Abraham And the men turned The two angels And they went towards Sodom But

Abraham still stood before the Lord Let them go But hey I'm going to deal with you on this thing And Abraham is now standing before the Lord And Abraham came near And he said Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city Would you also destroy the place and not spare it For the fifty righteous that were in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing as this To slay the righteous with the wicked So that the righteous should be as the wicked Far be it from you Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? Interesting isn't it This intercession of Abraham And the position from which he comes You're the judge of all the earth God Would it be right?

Would it be fair that you would destroy the righteous people In the city along with the wicked? This is a extremely interesting proposition That Abraham is making to the Lord And it has a lot to do with us today God is soon going to come and destroy the earth We are fast approaching what is known as the scriptures As the great tribulation period When God is going to judge the wicked Now there are many Christians today Who are taking the position That the church is going to be in the great tribulation But you are denying the justice of God The righteousness of God This very premise that Abraham was pressing Shall not the Lord of the earth do right?

If there are 50 righteous people Will you spare it for the 50 righteous? It wouldn't be fair that you would judge them with the wicked Shouldn't the Lord of the earth be right? Shouldn't he be fair? And so the same is true In the consideration of God's judgment That's going to come in the great tribulation The Lord of the

earth will be fair And what will he do? Even as he removed righteous lot out of Sodom Before he judged it So will he remove the righteous ones in his church Out of the earth before he judges it That's just in keeping with the very principle Of the righteousness of the just God So the Lord said if I find in Sodom 50 righteous Within the city I will spare all of the place for their sakes You know The sinners around you today are having a free ride It's because of you that God's judgment hasn't already come Sinners are blessed because Christians are there For 50 righteous God would have spared Sodom That's probably a very small percentage of the people If you looked at the total population And for 50 God would have spared it How many times God's judgment would have fallen If it had not been for God's people being there So Abram answered and said indeed no I who am but dust and ashes Look at Abram's opinion of himself That's great I like it I'm but dust and ashes I've taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord Suppose there were five less than the 50 righteous Would you destroy it because of the lack of five I mean you're just five short Would you wipe it out just because you're five short Abram, Abraham This is really intercession for the city of Sodom I've taken it upon myself to speak before the Lord And he begins now this Dickering with God in a sense Until he brings God down to ten And when he finally gets down to ten he said But now look Lord what if there's just ten righteous Wouldn't you spare it even for the ten And he's come down five at a time So they've been through a process here And so finally the Lord said to him I will not destroy it for the sake of ten So the Lord went his way As soon as he had finished speaking with Abraham And Abraham returned to his place We'll return with more of our verse-by-verse study Through the book of Genesis in our next lesson As we follow the two angels that went on to Sodom And we do hope you'll make plans to join us But right now I'd like to remind you that If you missed any part of today's message Or perhaps you'd like to order a copy For that special friend or loved one You can do so by simply contacting One of our customer service representatives And they'd be more than happy to assist you With the ordering details Simply call 1-800-272-WORD And phone orders can be taken Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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