

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

Title:

God Almighty Speaks

Speaker:

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Date:

February 11, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 17:1-27

**Theme:** God almighty speaks so that we can be established in his covenant.

**Introduction:** When the Lord made his promise to Abram, he showed him the stars and encouraged him by the immensity of his promise. But many years have passed, and still the promise has not been fulfilled. In Gen 17, the Lord speaks to Abram in order to remind and refresh him in his promise.

We find 6 divine speeches and 1 response:

**1. God Almighty (1-2)**

The Lord begins by emphasizing his omnipotence—he is God Almighty. Even in the midst of waiting, the Lord has not faltered or failed.

The Almighty thus emphasizes that nothing is impossible for him. He will deliver.

**2. Promises abound (3-8)**

Abram responds by falling on his face—a posture of humility. He believes the Lord. The Lord then unfolds many and great promises for him.

The Lord renames him, Abraham, meaning “father of many nations.”

The promises transcend Abraham himself and extend to the nations and to many generations. And they will be fulfilled through covenant—the Lord will do it all.

**3. A sign is given (9-14)**

As the middle speech, the 3<sup>rd</sup> is most important. The Lord ratifies his covenant with Abram and he gives him a sign, circumcision.

The sign tells us something about the bearer of the sign. It is a sign of belonging to God’s covenant people. And it is primarily a sign to those who bear it.

Circumcision points to baptism, which is the new covenant sign of belonging. It is a new and better sign of our union with and identity in Christ.

**4. Patriarchy by design (15-16)**

In promising to fulfill the promise of a son, the Lord includes Sarai in the promise and in the process. The line descends only through her (not Hagar/Ishmael).

This points to the Lord’s purposes for families and the leadership of men. He designed patriarchy and he uses it to accomplish his purposes.

The Lord also renames Sarai as Sarah, princess. She is Abraham’s beloved and the matriarch of Israel.

**5. Laughter (17-21)**

Abraham laughs at the promise of a child, but the Lord mercifully promises to give him true laughter when his son is born.

**6. Response: Faith through obedience (22-27)**

Abraham believes the Lord and immediately obeys, circumcising his household.

**Questions:**

1. How is the Lord calling or causing you to wait?
2. What promises has the Lord made to you?
3. Are you obeying God, or making excuses?