

**Scripture:** Genesis 17

CoF 34 (3)

**Singing:** 309:1-4 – 402:1, 4, 6 – 222:1, 2, 4, 5 – 255:1-4

Intro: A definition of history: His-story!

A. God's story is 'from everlasting to everlasting' (Jer. 31:3 – John 17:3)

1. God's story is in *one book with various chapters*

2. God's story is the *testament of His redemptive work*

a. the details of this testament increase in focus (Eph. 3:8-11)

b. yet His testament is *one unified plan* about His redemption

- based on love: Jer. 31:3 – Deut. 7:7 – John 3:16
- based on the substitute: Gen. 3:15 – Ex. 12:12 – Heb. 9:14
- based on faith: Gen. 4:4 – Lev. 4:29– Is. 52 - Acts 13:38-39
- includes heart change: Deut. 5:29 – 6:5 – 10:12 – John 3:3

d. His plans includes *successive expansions (administrations)*: Eph. 2:12

3. God's consistently speaks: *I shall be your God and you shall be my people!*

a. Gen 3:15 - Gen. 6:18 - Gen. 17:7 – Deut. 29:10-13 – 2 Sam. 7:24-26/  
1 Kings 2:3-4 – Matt. 1:23 – 2 Cor. 6:16 – 1 Peter 2:10 - Rev. 21:3

C. What has all this to do with the baptism of infants?

I. How does God view the children of His chosen people then and now

A. The answer of Gen 17:

1. God repeated His covenant (Gen. 15:19; 17:6-8)

2. God added a *token of the covenant* (vs. 10)

a. what was the meaning of this 'token' to Abraham?

- a confirmation of God's promise: Romans 4:11

b. what was the meaning of this same 'token' to Ishmael?

- a token of God's covenant with him Gen. 17:11

- a picture of need of God's redemptive work: Romans 2:28-29

B. How did God consider *all* Israel in the Old Testament time (2000 years)?

1. As His chosen people placed in His spiritual pasture: Ps. 95:7; 100

a. they were 'holy' (Deut. 7:6-8)

b. yet their *position* was a *relationship of belonging to Him*

- review Ex. 2:24-25; Ex. 3:10; Deut. 5:2, 6; Deut. 7:6-8

- review 'Thus saith the LORD' Ps. 81:8; 13; Is. 1:2; Ezek. 16:1-20

c. the Messenger of the Covenant (Malachi 3:1) confirms it : Mark 10:14

2. Yet their position was one of *separation* and not *regeneration (condition)*

C. How does God include the children of the NT believers?

1. The Holy Spirit's testimony through Peter in Acts 2:39

a. Peter's *three-fold* promise is echo of God's promises in Genesis 17

- Gen. 17:2 ... *my covenant between Me **and you***

- Gen. 17:7 ... *my covenant between Me and thee **and thy seed***

- Gen 17:4-5 ... *my covenant between thee **and many nations***

b. the New Testament Church (Jew & Gentile) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the LORD's covenant with Abraham

c. if that phase would exclude children, what should we expect?

2. The Spirit's testimony through Paul in 1 Cor. 7:14 (Deut. 7:6; Dan. 5:3-4)

Conclude: Wherefore do we baptize our infants?

A. Because God wants them to know He has bound Himself personally to them

B. Because God wants all to know that His incredible Gospel offer is to them