

Genesis 17

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SERMON NOTES

Genesis 17

The unhurried, mystifying, but faithful covenant God of the Bible

- God's covenant with Abram *presented* in Genesis 12
- God's covenant with Abram *ratified* in Genesis 15
- God's covenant with Abram *reaffirmed* in Genesis 17

“Spiritually, the essence of the covenant is personal, like the ‘I will’ of a marriage: so the pledge I will be their God far outweighs the particular benefits. This is the covenant. The striking feature of the stipulations is their lack of detail. To be committed was all. Circumcision was God’s brand; the moral implications could be left unwritten until Sinai, for one was pledged to a Master, only secondarily to a way of life.”

- Derek Kidner, *Genesis*

The sovereign God of the Bible is always and everywhere, active and on the move.

God's absolute right of choice:

- When to appear and speak
- What to call Himself
- With whom He will speak
- What to say: commands, promises, covenants, instruction, warnings, judgements
- Who to claim as His own
- Who to give anything to and what to give them
- What to command/demand from anyone/anywhere/anytime

Don't let the odds or circumstances before you eclipse your faith in the sovereign God who is all around you.

- Faith grows by hearing the Word of God.
- Faith grows by believing and walking according to the Word of God.
- Faith grows by trusting Christ, the Living Word of God.

“Wait on the Lord’ is a constant refrain in the Psalms, and it is a necessary word, for God often keeps us waiting. He is not in such a hurry as we are, and it is not his way to give more light on the future than we need for action in the present, or to guide us more than one step at a time.”

- J.I. Packer

“We would prefer to have a deity with high blood pressure and one that gave promises with microwaveable instructions on them but He doesn’t do it. So, having a covenant God is to have a God who baffles us with His strange and stubborn ways.”

- Dale Ralph Davis

One thing we find in the timeless truths of the Bible is that if we hurry the waiting, we might miss the wisdom and the glory that only waiting can bring.

“Radical Christians are not people who jump around at concerts. Radical Christians are not people who just wear Christian t-shirts. Radical Christians are those who bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.”

- Voddie Baucham

Can you find rest in the quotidian ordinariness of an everyday life, trusting the unhurried, mystifying but faithful covenant God of the Bible?