INTRODUCTION

- A lot happens in this single chapter: God introduces himself as “God Almighty”; Abram gets a new name; Abraham loses an uncomely part of his body; and he tries to change history by asking God to compromise on one of His promises.

**Passage** | **Comments**
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Moses passes over thirteen years of Abram’s life, not because nothing worthy of remembrance had in the meantime occurred; but because the Spirit of God, according to his own will, selects those things which are most necessary to be known. source: Calvin Commentary

**Time of Fulfillment**

- God identifies Himself as “God Almighty” and he gives new names to reflect a change in mission
- Abram = El Shaddai
- Abraham = Father of Multitude
- Sarai & Sarah = Princess

**The Names of God**

- Ancient Hebrew is a Pictorial Language read from Right to Left
- Hebrew 101
- "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” Is 9:6
- Some of the Familiar Names of God
  - Ancient of Days Dan 7:9
  - Eternal God El Olam Gen 21:33
  - God Elohim Gen 1:1
  - God Almighty El Shaddai Gen 17:1
  - God Most High El Elyon Gen 14:18
  - God of Peace 1Thes 5:23
  - God of Retribution Jer 51:56
  - God of Truth Is 65:16
  - God Who Sees El Roi Gen 16:13
  - Judge All the Earth Gen 18:25
  - King of Kings, Lord of Lords Rev 19:16
  - Lord God Almighty Ps 89:8
  - Lord Our Maker Jehovah-Hosea, Gen 44:9
  - Lord Who Heals Jehovah-Rophe Ex 15:26
  - Lord Will Provide Jehovah-Jireh Gen 22:14

**Covenant of Circumcision**

- God had man enter into the covenant by offering a special part of his own body, and no part could be better spared. It is a secret part of the body; for the true circumcision is that of the heart: and this honor God bestowed upon an uncomely part (source: Matthew Henry Commentary)
- Women inherited the blessings of the Jewish covenant by familial relationships with a man (father or spouse)

**Abraham Laughs at God’s Promise**

- Abraham tries to make a compromise with God (have Ishmael be the inheritor) – But God had other plans for Ishmael, for from him came many Arab/Muslim nations
- Abraham’s passivity was a blessing and a curse
  - World’s Blessings. He obeyed God without hesitation, he received honor in the Hall of Fame twice (Heb 11:8,17) and he became a blessing to all nations
  1. He moved his family on command.............. Gen 12:1
  2. He circumcised himself, family, & servants .......... v23
  3. He offered up Isaac as a sacrifice .......... Gen 22
  4. From his loins, came the Savior of the world
- World’s Problems. He also obeyed his wife without hesitation, got her maid pregnant and sent her out into the desert at the command of his wife & with God’s consent, which allowed Ishmael to fulfill God’s purpose for him, who would be in contention with others and even with his own brothers (as we see with Arabs today)...... Gen 16:12

**Good Traditions Gone Awry**

- Like Baptism, circumcision was meant to be an external sign of the need to have an internal change of heart toward God. But due to man’s sinful nature, those symbols have, over time, morphed into other things:
  1. One MUST be Baptized and/or Circumcised to be saved
  2. Some African nations practice female circumcision, which is nothing more than mutilation

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- How can we discern when our passivity will bring godly blessings or earthly troubles?

**NEXT WEEK: Genesis 18-20.** Would you give your daughter or fiancé over to wicked men to spare the lives of a stranger?