

**Date: January 11, 2026**

**Pastor: Asa Hart**

**Title: “Rejoice to See His Day!”**

**Series: Genesis – Beginnings**

**Text: Genesis 17:1-18:15**

**Main point:** *Laugh because of God’s promises.*

I. Promises **Cheer**, 17:1-22 (*see also Gen. 12; 15; Ps. 119:1; Matt. 5:48; John 8:56; Rom. 9:6-8; 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 4:21-31; 2 Pt. 1:3-4*)

II. Faith **Works**, 17:23-27 (*see also Exod. 4:24-26; Deut. 10:16; Rom. 4:17-25; 8:16-19; Col. 2:8-15; Phil 3:5; Gal.3:1-9*)

III. Sons **Rejoice**, 18:1-15 (*see also Gen. 3:15; 21:6, 9; Exod. 4:22-23; Hos. 11:1; Matt. 1:18-25; Rom. 9:9-29; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Heb. 11:11*)

## **Questions for Reflection**

1. Read Genesis 17:1-22. Are there similarities between this passage and Gen. 15 and Genesis 12:1-7? What are the similarities? Are there differences between these passages? What are the differences? What is happening each time the covenant is repeated? How do we see God reveal greater specificity to his plans as the Bible continues? Why does God gradually or progressively reveal his plan and his character throughout the Bible? Read Hebrews 1:1-4. Will there be any greater revelation than Jesus? Do you find yourself believing in God's promises include something besides or beyond Jesus (health, wealth, family, nation)?
2. Read Gen. 17:23-27. What is the point of the sign of circumcision? Does performing this sign make Abraham righteous? How does this connect to the covenantal ritual seen in 15:9-17? Read Colossians 2:8-15. How does Paul see circumcision fulfilled in the NT? How does baptism connect to the blood of the covenant of Christ's cross? If babies were circumcised after the 8<sup>th</sup> day, why don't we baptize babies in our church? What kind of birth should we baptize after? Have you been "born again"? Have you obeyed the command Christ has given us in the sign of baptism?
3. Read Gen. 18:1-15. Are there similarities in Abraham's laughter and Sarah's laughter? Are there differences? There is more laughter surrounding Isaac. Look at Genesis 21:6 and 21:9. How are each of these characters' laughter different (Abraham, Sarah, Ishmael)? Why does God's choice of Isaac over Ishmael underscore his power and glory? Which character is most associated with your laughter regarding God's promises?
4. Christ is speaking so that you might hear and in hearing you might turn to him, and in turning to him, he might heal you. What do you need to bring before him today?

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**NEXT WEEK:** Genesis 18:16-33, Andy McClellan