

WALK BEFORE ME

Genesis 17:1–8





OPENING QUESTION

When God has been silent in your life, does His silence mean He has forgotten His covenant — or is He waiting for the moment to reveal Himself as more than sufficient for what lies ahead?



Where We're Going

- v.1 — El Shaddai reveals Himself
- v.2 — The covenant confirmed and given
- v.3–4 — Abram falls on his face
- v.5 — A new name: Abraham
- v.6 — Nations and kings promised
- v.7–8 — Everlasting covenant, land, and God Himself



Where This Fits

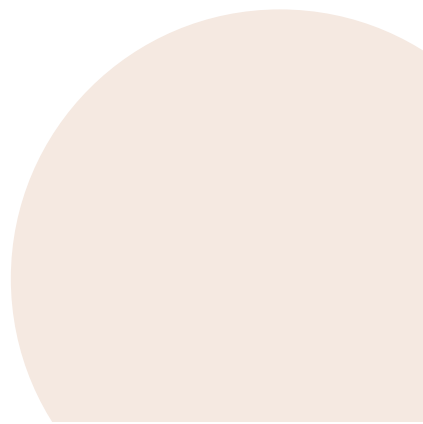
- After thirteen years of silence since chapter 16
- God returns to formalize the covenant on His own terms
- The hinge point: Abram becomes Abraham



Main Thought

- God reveals Himself as El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One
- He calls Abram into a transformed identity
- Revelation of who God is always comes before the requirement

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.'



GENESIS 17:1 — WORD STUDY



El Shaddai (el shad-DYE) — Almighty God



hith-hal-LēKH (halak) — Walk



tamim (taw-MEEM) — Blameless, whole



Aleph (ox / strength) + Lamed (shepherd's staff) = “The Strong Shepherd”

- El Shaddai — the All-Sufficient, Strong Shepherd
- Halak — an ongoing walk, not a single step
- Tamim — whole, undivided devotion, not sinless perfection
- Revelation of who God is always comes before the requirement



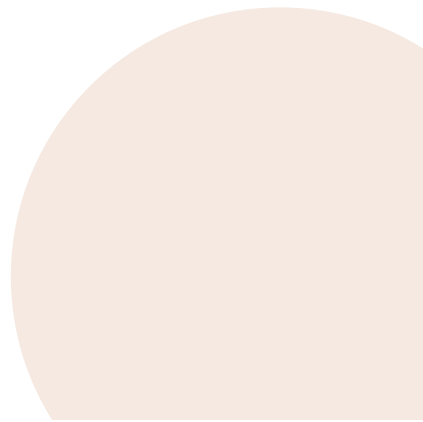
Genesis 17:1

- God reveals sufficiency before He commands obedience
- Thirteen years of silence, then a name: El Shaddai
- Walk before Him with an undivided heart, not a fleshly shortcut

GENESIS 17:2

NKJV

And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.



GENESIS 17:2 — WORD STUDY



nathan (naw-THAN) — Give / Set



berit (beh-REET) — Covenant



me'od melody (meh-ODE meh-ODE) — Exceedingly, exceedingly



Bet (house) + Resh (head) + Yod (hand) + Tav (mark/cross) = “the hand of the Head of the house, sealed at the cross”

- Genesis 15 cut the covenant — Genesis 17 confirms and administers it
- Given, not earned — nathan, not karat
- Exceedingly, exceedingly — no ceiling on the promise
- The shadow of the cross was hidden in the very word for covenant



Genesis 17:2

- Confirmed and administered, not renegotiated
- Sealed by His hand, not yours
- Never measure what God can multiply by your current storehouse

*Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:
'As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be
a father of many nations.'*



GENESIS 17:3–4 — WORD STUDY



naphal (naw-FAL) — Fell



panim (paw-NEEM) — Face



hinneh (hin-NEH) — Behold



Peh (mouth / speak) + Nun (chaotic waters) = “a mouth speaking into chaos”

- Walk before My face (v.1) → Abram's own face to the ground (v.3)
- Worship begins when human talking ends
- Respond, don't react — stillness before a new plan
- Worship and honest struggle can coexist in the same man



Genesis 17:3–4

- No defense, no new plan — just worship
- The teacher must fall before he stands to teach
- Surrender first, then God-defined purpose

'No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.'



GENESIS 17:5 — WORD STUDY



Avraham (av-raw-HAM) — Abraham, “father of a multitude”



hey (HEY) — the added letter, a breath sound



hamon (haw-MOHN) — Multitude



Hey — a man with arms raised: “behold, revelation” — and the sound of a breath

- God renamed him before Isaac ever came
- Every future use of his name preached an unfulfilled promise
- Identity spoken before it is produced
- Breath, not flesh, would give life to the promised child



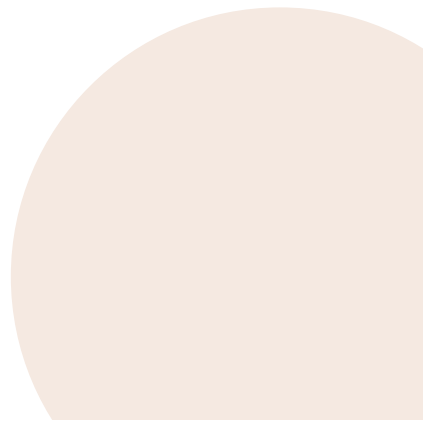
Genesis 17:5

- God breathes life into a dead name
- Stop answering to your old, self-produced name
- Identity spoken by God, not manufactured by flesh

GENESIS 17:6

NKJV

'I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.'



GENESIS 17:6 — WORD STUDY



parah (paw-RAW) — Fruitful



goyim (go-YEEM) — Nations



melakhim (meh-law-KHEEM) — Kings



Peh (mouth / speak) + Resh (head / chief) = “a leading word producing increase”

- Same word as Genesis 1's “be fruitful and multiply”
- Nations: Israel, Edom, the Ishmaelite peoples, and more through Keturah
- Kings: Edom's kings, then Israel's kings through David's line
- Broad physical blessing, narrow covenant line



Genesis 17:6

- God's calling can be broad and specific at the same time
- Don't confuse general blessing with specific calling
- Every king from this promise pointed toward one King

'And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land of your sojourning, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be God to you.'



GENESIS 17:7–8 — WORD STUDY



olam (oh-LAHM) — Everlasting



ger (GAIR) — Sojourner, resident alien



Elohim (el-oh-HEEM) — God



Ayin (eye) + Vav (nail) + Lamed (staff) = “eyes fixed on the Shepherd's staff, nailed into eternity”

- Land and relationship bound together — the land is not the point, God Himself is
- “Everlasting” means the promise cannot fail; its final form may be greater than its earthly shadow
- Handle the modern land question with care — covenant ownership never meant unconditional enjoyment
- Bookended twice by “I will be God to you”



Genesis 17:7–8

- The gift is Himself, not merely His gifts
- Nailed into eternity by His own hand, not man's
- Trust the covenant nailed into the heart of God, not the headlines



Application

- God's silence is not His absence — it is often preparation
- Your identity comes from His spoken word, not your past
- The gift was always Himself, not merely His gifts



Call to Action

- Stop manufacturing your own Ishmael
- Fall on your face before you build your next plan
- Walk before El Shaddai with an undivided heart

WALK BEFORE ME

Genesis 17:1–8

