

RUSSELL SANDERS
11-2-2020
ABRAHAM PART 20
EL-SHADDAI

Genesis Chapter 17 opens thirteen years after Ishmael's birth and Abram is 99 years old. God appears to him and reveals Himself as El-Shaddai for the first time.

"El" means God the Strong One. "Shaddai" signifies Him as the Nourisher, the Strength Giver, the Satisfier. El Shaddai is best expressed as the "All Sufficient One."

God gave Abram a new name: Abraham. It meant "Father of Many Nations" or "Father of Multitudes." God also gave Sarai a new name: Sarah, which meant "Princess."

God completed the covenant now with Abraham that had been promised to him as Abram. God had already performed His part of the covenant with the blood of the animals split in half. Now it was time for Abraham to seal his part of the covenant in blood.,

Abraham was instructed to circumcise the foreskin (sheath) of the penis of every male in his clan whether bond or free. Any male not circumcised would be forever banished. This would seal the "Abrahamic covenant" forever.

God also promised that Ishmael whom Abraham loved would also multiply exceedingly and produce twelve princes. However, Ishmael would not be the heir of promise. God told him that in a year from then that Sarah would bear him the son of promise and he must be named Isaac.

A true covenant is always sealed in blood. This can be seen from scripture and from tribal customs over thousands of years. It links together for the lifetime of the covenant makers and their families. A covenant is only ended when one party to it no longer exists due to the death of one covenant party and their heirs.

God sealed the New Covenant with us through the shed blood of Jesus. We have sealed our part through salvation and the circumcision of the heart. Much blood has been shed for this covenant, including that of Jesus, the Twelve Apostles, and the tens of thousands of martyrs since then. This covenant redeems us to the family of God, clothed in righteousness in Christ, and we are sealed with the Holy Ghost. We are covered by El-Shaddai, the All-sufficient God. He shall supply all our need (Philippians 4:19) where it says, ***"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."***

Praise God.