

Circumcision

Genesis 17:9-12

9 And Elohim said to Abraham, “You shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you in their generations.

10 This *is* My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised.

11 And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin. And it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

12 And a son of eight days shall be circumcised among you, every male in your generation, he that is born in the house, or bought with silver from any son of a foreigner who *is* not of your seed.

This is another one of those where a lot of you already know what the lesson is about; because those familiar with the Bible already know what circumcision represent. We will go ahead and look at it anyway and perhaps there may even be something you haven't considered before, and I'll try to make it where it's not PG or over.

This is a covenant Elohim (God) is making between Him and Abraham and the seed after Abraham. This covenant is the covenant of circumcision. The circumcision itself is not the true covenant, it is a sign of the true covenant as seen in (verse 11) above.

There are also questions we'll have to address such as circumcision only applies to the male what about the female how would it apply to her?

For unraveling this I think we may have to go all the way back to the very beginning.

We will back up all the way to the very creation of mankind.

Genesis 2:7

7 And YAHWEH Elohim formed the man from the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul.

It was just after this time Elohim (God) gave the command to Adam and, by the way, in Hebrew the word for earth or the ground is אדמה “Adamah” *Adam-ma* so you see where “Adam” comes from “the ground” anyway, Elohim (God) said not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 And YAHWEH Elohim took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden, to work it and to keep it.

16 And YAHWEH Elohim commanded the man, saying, “Eating you may eat of every tree in the garden;

17 but of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you may not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, surely you shall die.”

I would like for you to take note that the woman has not yet been created, Elohim (God) gave the command to the man before woman was created therefore, man would obviously have to relate the information to the woman.

The man was created however, there is no mate for him therefore, a mate will still have to be created, of course we know from Reading the Bible before that he created all the animals and brought them before Adam but there was no suitable mate found for him. Elohim (God) had to put Adam into a deep sleep.

Genesis 2:18

18 And YAHWEH Elohim said, "It is not good, the man being alone. I will make a helper suited to him."

Genesis 2:21

21 And YAHWEH Elohim caused a deep sleep to fall on the man, and he slept. And He took one side of his body and closed the flesh of the body.

This is another one of those areas where there are assumptions made like the forbidden fruit where it is widely taught that the forbidden fruit was an apple, however, apple is never mentioned in the Bible as the forbidden fruit.

It is widely believed that woman was made from the rib of a man however, the Hebrew word used is צלע *tsela* said as *t-say-law* It almost appears that it could be one side was formed into the woman. The same Hebrew word צלע is used in multiple places in the Bible. To show a couple.

Exodus 25:12

12 And you shall cast four rings of gold for it and shall put *it* on its four feet; two rings on its one side, and two rings on the second side.

Exodus 26:35

35 And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lamp across from the table on the side of the tabernacle southward. And you shall put the table on the north side.

In these two verses the word "side" that I underlined is the same Hebrew word צלע used each time; as seen the word rib just would not fit. Because it's Adams side they may have assumed rib.

Also, as we see from the next verse in Genesis.

Genesis 2:22

22 And YAHWEH Elohim formed the side which He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

This would also explain why the word flesh was used, not only bone and the word bone is plural, bones.

Genesis 2:23

23 And the man said, "This now at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh; For this shall be called Woman, because from man this has been taken."

This also explains (verse 24) because two halves make a whole, therefore, at marriage the two halves are one.

Genesis 2:24-25

24 Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one (*unified*) flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.

This really had nothing to do with circumcision, but I had to explain it. Now, we will move on to the next chapter. The next chapter where we will look again at the fall of man, and keep in mind the woman was told by her husband and told that it came from Elohim (God). So, I didn't know is not an excuse.

Genesis 3:6-7

6 And the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and the tree *was* desirable to make *one* wise. And she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

7 And the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked. And they sewed leaves of the fig tree and made girdles for themselves.

Now we'll jump ahead a little bit farther to where Elohim (God) is speaking to Adam and Eve about their disobedience and giving the consequence for their disobedience. Elohim (God) has already dealt with the Serpent, now He's focusing on the man and woman.

Genesis 3:16

16 He said to the woman, "I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception; you shall bear sons in sorrow, and your desire shall be toward your husband; and he shall rule over you."

Although there is a lot more in this verse to extract, we may look at it at another time on a different subject, right now we want to keep in focus the topic of circumcision. So, we'll look at what Elohim (God) has to say to man and compare it to what is said to the woman.

Genesis 3:17

17 And He said to the man, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'you shall not eat *from* it,' the ground *shall be* cursed because of you; you shall eat of it in sorrow all the days of your life.

We didn't look at what Elohim (God) said to Satan, He Cursed Satan himself, (if you want you can read of it in Genesis 3:14-15), we just don't want to look at it right now, with the man there was also a curse, however, the curse was on the ground. Elohim (God) also said to the man, "... and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'you shall not eat *from* it,' ..." To the woman he never mentioned the word "cursed."

Keep that in mind, that is something of importance. We need to move on.

Sin at the fall of man entered humanity, but we need to look at how sin goes from one person to another at conception. If everyone who is born is sinful, then The Messiah would also be sinful, but we know that The Messiah knew no sin. The Messiah was the only one born on earth who was without sin. However, the Psalmist says,

Psalms 51:5

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

The Psalmist is saying he was in sin from conception. So, if we are in sin from conception then how is it that The Messiah is without sin for He was born of a woman.

Galatians 4:4

4 But when the fullness of the time came, YAHWEH sent forth His Son, having come into being out of a woman, being subject to the Law,

We see from this, not everyone that is born of a woman is sinful, for we see in Galatians that The Messiah was born of a woman. Although, He was subject to the Law. And from Psalms we see where David said in sin my mother conceived me. We need to look at the difference between their birth, more specifically their conception. We read of The Messiah, in Matthew.

Matthew 1:23

23 "Behold! The virgin will conceive in her womb and will bear a son, and they will call His name Emmanuel," which is interpreted, our "Elohim is with us."

Next, we read of Yahshua (Jesus) in Luke.

Luke 1:26-33

26 And in the sixth month, the cherub Gabriel was sent from the presence of Elohim to Galilee to the city whose name is Nazareth,

27 to a virgin who had been betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David and the virgin's name was Mariam.

28 And entering, the cherub said to her, "Peace to you full of grace! Our Adonai is with you. You are blessed among women!"

29 And seeing this, she was disturbed at his word, and considered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 And the cherub said to her, "Do not fear, Mariam, for you have found grace from YAHWEH.

31 For behold you will receive conception and bear a son and you will call His name Yahshua.

32 This One will be great and will be called Son of the Most-High. And YAHWEH Elohim will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob to the ages, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

We see from this a human female does not of herself conceive sin. I'm not saying by that, that woman is sinless, because remember how she was conceived; of a man. Remember when we were looking at creation of man and the fall of mankind, I said to keep something in mind. When Elohim (God) was dishing out the consequence of their disobedience, the woman was the only one where there was not a curse. What's up with that huh? If it wasn't for her ... well, let's not get into that, man could have said no, but he was probably to use to saying, "yes dear". ☺

Okay, back to it. So, you see, it is at conception that made the difference and why it was important that the woman be a virgin. This also explains the circumcision. Remember, I'm trying to keep

this under PG, so your imagination is going to have to work with me ... yeah, now you got the picture; the seed from man.

Back to circumcision. The foreskin is not sin, but it represents sin and the foreskin must be cut off to illustrate the cutting away of sin. The sin is the sin of the heart and it is this sin which must be removed. In Deuteronomy Elohim (God) tells Israel to circumcise the foreskin of the heart.

Deuteronomy 10:16

16 And you shall circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and you shall not harden your neck anymore.

But that is like asking a person to save themselves, this is an impossible task for Israel to do. If it were possible for them to do it, then they could save themselves. The foreskin of the heart is the sin of the heart, and it is impossible for mankind to remove their own sin.

We are told however, that Elohim (God) will do for His people what is impossible for us to do.

Deuteronomy 30:6

6 And YAHWEH your Elohim will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love YAHWEH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.

To circumcise the heart is to remove sin from the heart and this is done by the Savior, Elohim (God) has sent into the world to die for our sin. The punishment for sin is eternal death, Elohim (God) is eternal therefore, when He pays the penalty for His people eternal death is paid. Otherwise, if it is not paid for then it is the responsibility of the individual to pay it for themselves and it would take an eternity to pay it.

That is what circumcision is about, what it spiritually represents. If we try and fit all the rules for circumcision into it, then eight days after we are born we must be saved. Fortunately, that is not the case, or we may all be lost forever. We see in the Bible plenty of cases where people were circumcised after eight days old and it all worked out fine. So why the eighth day?

The number eight is also a spiritual number. The number eight represents "a new beginning" and when our heart is circumcised by the Savior, we have a new beginning, not in our flesh, but, in our spirit.

PS. The Messiah fulfilled the covenant of circumcision at the crucifixion, so it is no longer required to circumcise, however for hygiene cleanliness purposes it is still a good idea.

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