

Genesis 17:7

I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT

- I. The concept.
 - A. God speaks about His covenant as something with which Abram was familiar (cf. Gen. 9:9; 15:18).
 - B. Now Abram has some unrest because it has been a long time (over 13 years) since God last spoken to him.
 - C. God makes clear that He alone “establishes” this relationship, i.e., to cause it to arise and stand.
 1. It is not a mutual agreement, for God alone passed through the rows of dead animals (Gen. 15).
 2. This is because God is a covenant God within Himself (“my”) as the three in one.
 3. Also important to God’s unilaterally establishing the relationship is the fact that it is “everlasting.”
- II. The heart of the covenant relationship is that God is “to be a God to thee” (Lev. 26:12; Jer. 7:23; 11:4; 30:22; Ezek. 36:28).
 - A. This language shows that the covenant is a relationship, not a contract or an agreement between God and man.
 - B. When the covenant God says that He will be a God to them, then He is “their God!”
 1. The covenant is a very definite relationship God has with Abram and his seed; it is not a promise, nor a contract, nor a way to some higher end, nor an alliance.
 2. He is the God who loves them with an eternal, infinite love. He is their delight.
 - C. And when Jehovah is their God, then they are God’s people.
 - D. Amazing because God is so far above us. What an honor!!
- III. This relationship God will also establish in the seed of Abram, i.e., in his generations.
 - A. While this was also said to Noah, it is emphasized in our text because the sign of circumcision is being added (10ff).
 - B. Even then we must remember that it is not with all and not with only them, but with the spiritual seed among the natural.
 - C. God’s promise to use parental instruction spurs us to teach and train to the best of our ability (Gen. 18:19).