

**Abram's lineage**

Terah was Abram's father; he was pagan – idolater, worshiping other gods (Joshua 24:2)

## NOTES

**God's call to Abram**

The call came with 2 imperatives/instructions:

1) leave the land (v4) and 2) be a blessing (v5-9)

Read Genesis 12:1-3 – Abram's calling

Read Genesis 12:4-9 – Abram's obedience

**God's promise to Abram**

Read Genesis 15:1-6 – father of many nations/many descendants covenant

Read Genesis 15:7-21 – land covenant

**Abram renamed to Abraham (reminder of God's covenant)**

Read Genesis 17:1-8

Abram means "exalted father" – looks back to his lineage – father was of royal lineage

Abraham means "father of a multitude of nations" – looks forward to his promised descendants

Abraham was 99 years old

Sarai to Sarah meaning "princess"; she was 90 years old

**Circumcision is the mark of the covenant**

Read Genesis 17:9-14

Terms of the covenant: must be circumcised (Gen 17:10); act of obedience to the law

Circumcision is a sign of the covenant between God and Abrahams descendants (Gen 17:11)

Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised (v24)

Read Romans 2:25-29

Jewish Ceremony of circumcision – obedience to the law

True circumcision – it not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. A person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not people. Romans 2:29

Read Romans 4:9-17

- A right relationship with God comes by faith

Circumcision of the heart: act of obedience to Christ

God has always wanted circumcision of the heart – something only the Holy Spirit can accomplish

Deut 10:16 – Therefore, change your hearts and stop being stubborn.

Deut 30:6 – The Lord your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love Him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!

Jer 4:4 – O people of Judah and Jerusalem, surrender your pride and power. Change your hearts before the Lord, or My anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 – I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put My Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations.

Gal 6:15- ... What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation