

“I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.” Genesis 17:7 NLT

lectio // Genesis 17:1-13

What an amazing and beautiful contract God makes with Abraham (father of many)! And God keeps his promises - he has the power to do so. We don't always have the power to keep our promises because of things that are out of our control, but God can and does keep his. So at 99 years old, God cuts a deal with Abraham and it becomes the people and country of Israel, the Jews. Since he lived to 175 years old, he had a few years to see this come to pass. The clincher, God said he had to do some things to keep his part of the contract - like circumcision. Question, who do you get to cut the tip off your privates when your 99 yrs old? Who performed the first bris? Did he do it himself? Get Sarah to do it? Wow, that's tough. But that powerful object lesson of "cutting" a contract still exists today! So began a journey with the "covenant" people of God and just to keep it interesting, we as "gentiles" were grafted or "cut" into the abrahamic covenant by faith. So as a grafted and adopted son, I have full rights and responsibilities to the contract God made long ago with Abram. However, I am not solely responsible to keep the commands because Jesus fulfilled the entire law on my behalf. I write, "solely" because it does require belief or faith in that sacrifice and fulfillment. Thank God!

oratio

Dad,

Promises are as old as humans themselves. However, we have not traditionally done well with keeping them. Yes, circumstances beyond our control play a part, but also our fall short because of our own selfishness. You are the promise keeper! And, you are trustworthy to fulfill all that you have planned and promised. In that I can rest and be free to exist in your love and grace.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root