**Week of September 9, 2018**

**The Sign of the Covenant**

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am [a]Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you and will multiply you exceedingly.” 3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of [b]many nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called [c]Abram, but your name shall be [d]Abraham; for I have made you a father of [e]many nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. 8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in[f] which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

9 And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; 11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. 12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. 13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

**Understanding of the Scripture**

In this week’s scripture we see that Abram is 99 years old and God is establishing his covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement between two or more people. A biblical covenant is an agreement made by God to a person, group of people or a nation. In today’s scripture God tells Abraham what is expected of him and his people to show their faithfulness to God. God also set out a sign that Abraham and family show as an act of obedience. As with the covenant that was established with Noah and now Abraham, God has established a covenant with us. John 3:16 tells us that “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosever believe in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” In Roman’s 10:9 we are told that “If we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart God has raised him from the dead, then you shall be saved.” Two promises established with in an agreement with God that will allow us to have everlasting life with God. God is faithful as he does not go back on his promises. Get to know him today if you don’t know him. Today’s sign of the covenant lies within our hearts. We are given acceptance into the promise if we except his only begotten son, Jesus Christ!!

