

Circumcise the Heart – The Transitioning of Planting and Bearing Fruit

The Origination of the Concept:

Genesis 17:11-12 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. [12] And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

Genesis 17:24 And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Genesis 17:20 And as for Ishmael (13 years old), I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him *fruitful (para)*, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Para – to be fruitful. *Peri* – fruit.

Examples of *Para*:

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be *fruitful*, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be *fruitful*, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Genesis 35:11 And God said unto him (Jacob), I am God Almighty: be *fruitful* and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

Genesis 41:52 And the name of the second called he (Joseph) *Ephraim*: For God hath caused me to be *fruitful* in the land of my affliction.

Why the Switch?

Genesis 48:13-14 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. [14] And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

Exodus 23:30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be *increased*, and inherit the land.

Deuteronomy 29:18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that *beareth* gall and wormwood;

Isaiah 17:5-8 And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. [6] Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it,

as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost *fruitful* branches thereof, saith the Lord God of Israel. [7] At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel. [8] And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

Ezekiel 36:11 And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase (*raba*: usually multiply) and *bring fruit*: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall *grow* out of his roots:

What Does This Mean for Us Today?

After the Preparation of Moses: For Going Into Egypt

Exodus 4:22-26 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: [23] And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn. [24] And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the Lord met him, and sought to kill him. [25] Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. [26] So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

After the Exodus: For Going Into the Promise

Joshua 5:2 At that time the Lord said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time.

Joshua 5:4 And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt.

A Matter of the Heart:

Deuteronomy 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

Deuteronomy 30:6 And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

New Testament Distinctives Concerning Circumcision

Definition:

Philippians 3:2-3 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. [3] For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

A Matter of Righteousness Rather Than Race

John 7:22-23 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. [23] If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

Romans 2:25-3:1 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. [26] Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? [27] And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? [28] For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: [29] But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. [3:1] What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

Romans 4:9-12 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. [10] How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. [11] And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: [12] And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

The Ministry of Jesus

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.