Names, Names, Names
Genesis 17

Main Thought  Your birth name is important; but not nearly as important as your NEW NAME (Isa. 62:2; Rev. 2:17).

GOD ALMIGHTY (1-2).

• God appears again to REVEAL more covenant truth (Heb. 1:1-2).
• EL SHADDAI (58x) means “mountain, strength, ability” (Psa. 121:1).
• To enjoy the covenant (12:1-3), the LORD asks him to WALK BEFORE ME (like Noah & Enoch) and be BLAMELESS (not perfect – 1 Tim. 3:10).

ABRAHAM (3-14, 23-27).

• THE PEOPLE – Abram (exalted father) is named Abraham (father of multitudes)
  Jewish (Isaac), Arabs (Ishmael), Christians (Jesus – Rev. 7:9).

• THE LAND –
  - OWNERSHIP depends solely upon God (as for ME – v. 3).
  - POSSESSION depends upon obedience (as for YOU – 9).

• THE SIGN –
  - Circumcision showed parental faith (Lev. 12:3).
  - It was performed on the eighth day as an offering to God (Ex. 22:30). Both John the Baptist (Lk. 1:59) and Jesus (Lk. 2:21) were circumcised on the eighth day.
  - It was to set apart (sanctify) and unify the community of faith (Deut. 30:6).
  - It was merely a SIGN, not the SUBSTANCE (FAITH – 15:6; Rom. 4:9-11).

• The SIGN of the new covenant in Christ is baptism (Col. 2:11-12). The SUBSTANCE however is the same (FAITH – Gal. 3:27).
• Christians are to be circumcised of heart by the Spirit (Rom. 2:28-29).

SARAH (15-17). Sarai is named Sarah (princess) for she will give birth to kings – ultimately Jesus Christ. She is the only woman to have her named changed and her age recorded at death (23:1).

ISAAC (18-22). Isaac (meaning LAUGH) is promised yet again as the son of promise (17:17; 18:12). Abraham would be 100 and Sarah 99 years old.

ISHMAEL (23-27). Ishmael (meaning GOD HEARS – 16:11) is blessed by God but is not the son of promise (John. 3:6-7).