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| A | <p><u>“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening”</u></p> <p>(Introduction of related scriptural passages)</p> | <p>1Sam 3:9</p> <p>Gen 16-17</p> |
| B | <p><u>Abram & Sarai’s Faith was Tested & Shaken</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since leaving Haran 15 years ago and God’s promise for a son had yet to be fulfilled. Abram and Sarai were in their senior years, their faith was inevitably shaken. ▪ Abram poured out his doubts to God while Sarai kept hers in her heart and decided to take things into her own hands. ▪ Abraham’s lack of faith is his weakness; however, his sin lies in not clarifying his doubts with God (“You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir” Gen 15:4). He followed Sarai’s plan, and after realizing his mistake, he remained indifferent to the situation and let it deteriorate, which becomes another Eden story! ▪ Ishmael and Isaac represent the law and grace respectively; the OT and NT; slavery and freedom. ▪ “The angel of the Lord” is God Himself. God reveals Himself to us in concrete images since we cannot understand God. This shows that God has used tangible images to reveal Himself in the OT already. In addition to “the angel of the Lord”, the teaching of the Holy Trinity is embedded in the various images. | <p>Gen 16</p> <p>Gen 15:2-3 HA p 141</p> <p>HA p 142</p> <p>Gal 4:21-31</p> <p>W. Kasper, <u>The God of Jesus Christ</u>, p 243 Proverbs 8:22-31, Is 63:10</p> |
| C | <p><u>Circumcision as the Sign of the Covenant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The difference between the Covenant in Gen 15 and Gen 17: Country and Dynasty; the first one is fulfilled in Moses and the latter in David. ▪ The renaming of Abram and Sarai: “multitude of nations”, “Queen Mother”. In scripture, God often bestows a new name to the one whom He sent: Jacob, Peter. ▪ Circumcision is a customary practice in the Middle East. Males in Egypt are circumcised when they turn 13 as a celebration of their coming of age. → God allows His people to incorporate local custom in their religion. ▪ Conceiving at the age of 99 is beyond one’s imagination; the fact that Abram & his wife were able to conceive a child shortly after his circumcision is even more unbelievable! God wants us to understand: “For God nothing is impossible”. ▪ Abraham experiences pain, blood, and helplessness through circumcision; however, a nation is brought forth. Baptism in water brings forth eternal life through Jesus’ suffering, blood, and | <p>Gen 17</p> <p>Fathers p 96</p> <p>Gen 17: 4, 15, HA p 143-39 S. Butler et al, <u>Jesus, Peter and The Keys</u>, p 6.</p> <p>HA p 143</p> <p>Lk 1:37</p> <p>HA p 143-144</p> |

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| | <p>helplessness on the cross, as well as through our participation in Jesus' death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God told Abraham to circumcise Ishmael when he turned 13, after which Isaac was born. This is to remind Abraham and his descendants that Ishmael is not the son granted by God, but is an Egyptian, the descendant of Ham who betrayed his father. ▪ Circumcision reminds Israel of the sin between Abraham and Hagar. God turns this from a local custom into a religious ritual to remind people of the importance of abstinence from concupiscence, "So shall [God's] covenant be in your flesh an everlasting Covenant". | <p>SH p 47</p> <p>Gen 17:13</p> |
| <p>D</p> | <p><u>Abraham's Laughter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" (Gen 17:18) Abraham implied his lack of faith in God; he believes that the son (Ishmael) promised by God can only be the one born of Hagar. He said that to save face for God. ▪ God is very direct in revealing the son promised to Abraham is Isaac who will be born of Sarah same time next year. ▪ "Isaac" means "laughter of God", because of this name, the laughter resulting from old Abraham and Sarah's disbelief will turn into laughter of joy. God has the last laugh! | <p>Gen 17:15-22</p> <p>Fathers p 104</p> <p>Gen 17:21</p> <p>SH p 47 HA p 144</p> |