Decoding the Torah Season 1: Cutting Away the Flesh-What It Really Means!



Scripture

• <u>Genesis 17:10</u>

This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you; every male among you shall be circumcised."

• Galatians 6:13-16

For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. But may it never be that I would boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

• Joshua 24:15

... choose this day whom you will serve...

• <u>Genesis 32:32</u>

Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

Other Scriptures

- John 17:3
- Deuteronomy 7:8
- I Corinthians 7:18
- Acts 15:1-2
- I Corinthians 718
- Genesis 1712
- Galatians 524
- Matthew 16:24
- John 1716
- Revelation 3:16
- Genesis 27; 32:28
- Isaiah 55:9

Main Points

- Bris-the Jewish ceremony of circumcision, typically performed when a baby boy is 8 days old.
- Circumcision is the God Mark.
- In mystical Judaism, the number 8 represents eternity.
- Circumcision symbolizes the cutting away of sinful and fleshly desires to embrace a life of fidelity to the Creator.
- In the Old Testament, circumcision was a symbol of being part of Yahweh's covenant people.
- Have you fully pulled away the fleshly desires of your life?
- Mitzvah is the Hebrew term for commandment (good deed).
- Sometimes God cannot fully bless us unless He first does something to break us.

Questions

- 1. What is the God Mark? Describe the act of circumcision and what it means. What does it signify that it was done on the 8th day?
- 2. Why would God require this of his people? What does it symbolize for the people of Israel?
- 3. Are Gentiles required to be circumcised? What is the meaning or application for Gentiles?
- 4. What did Rabbi say the real question is for New Testament believers to answer today? Do you look like the world? What is needed for us to do in
- 5. Describe why God might be willing to hurt his chosen? Why does Jacob illustrate this?