Genesis 17:1–18:15 Questions

In this section, the Abrahamic Covenant is made more specific (through Isaac, to be born to Sarah), more grand (nations, kings), and it includes a new stipulation (circumcision).

1. What are the similarities and differences between the covenant in here in ch. 17 and the promises God makes to Abram in ch. 12 and 15?

2. What seems to be the significance of the name changes in ch. 17 (Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah)?

3. How does Abraham respond to God and the covenant requirement God placed on him? How is his response exemplary for us?

4. The name Isaac means “he laughs” or “laughter.” How does his name connect with the initial reactions of his parents to the news that he would be born?

5. What are the things that seem too hard for the LORD in our lives? How does this passage help us think about what’s impossible and what God has done for us through the gospel?