CIRCUMCISION

Get to know and understand certain things first

Look at the timetable of the Bible (attach)

Realize that there was **3** types of **laws** in the Bible :

- **Moral laws** - 10 Commandments is the summary **Intact (Rom 7)**
- **Ceremonial Laws** - Offers, Priests (Levites) as mediators **Abolish**
- **Common Land Laws** - Laws to mange their country on daily basis (forget about this one for now) **Not applicable**

Make sure jou understand the meaning of following words:

- Fulfill (Vervul) - To make complete, To make come true, To end of and
- Righteousness - To set Free (Vrygemaak) - Joh 8:32; Joh 8:36; Rom 3:21-31; Rom 4:11-13 ; Rom 5:11

God made a **covenant** with Abraham (Gen 17)

The difference between a covenant and a normal contract is this. With a normal contract 2 or more parties agree on a price and a delivery of goods or service that will sometime end when the goods is delivered and the price is paid and then the contract is finish. There is also certain conditions to be met and certain responsibilities. BUT with a covenant there is 2 big differences

- First there is no negotiation because God is the creator of the covenant and
- Secondly the contract has no normal end in a humans lifetime, it stands forever till God change it.

God **choose** the Jews as nation to demonstrate to all the other nations who He is. He could have choos the Zulus or Sothos or Egyptians or any other nation but He decided to choose the Jews and He did it long before the law of Moses. He promise it to Abraham in Gen 15:13-21 and told him that his people will be slaves for 400 years (Ex 12:40)

In Short

Old Testament or covenant

God chose the Israelites to demonstrate to the other nations how they should live if they really want to serve Him or to reach Him through good works. But He know it is a enormous burden on a human being to do all these things but He give it to the Israelites so that we today can learn out of them, that it is impossible for us to keep all the laws and to reach God through good works. We can **only reach God by faith**. He demonstrated it in Num 21:4-9 with serpent - Everyone who **believe** was saved and live. (See also New Test Joh3:14-21)

He made a contract / covenant (Old Testament) with Abraham and to seal or undersign the contract they have to circumcise.

Then 430 years after Abraham (Gal 3:17) God repeat his Covenant with Moses and again and order the Israelites to circumcise (Accept the covenant)
In fact He ordered them a lot of **ceremonial laws**. For excample:

to circumcise
to appoint priests
to bring a lot of different offerings
to only eat certain foods
to keep certain days etc etc. (Exc Lev Num)

Prophecy of the new Testament or covenant to come

God told us through the prophet Jeremia 31:31 (Also Ez36:26) that their will be new covenant/testament one day and that went into fulfilment when Jesus came to earth and died for our sins and was resurrected

Fulfilment of Old Testament and beginning of the New Testament

When Jesus came He fulfill the Old Testament because He was and is the final
- Offering by giving His life for all our sins
- Priest/Mediator
- King - because He combine the two roles of the Priest and the King

Therefore He **abolish** the **ceremonial laws** of Moses AND NOW we **only have to believe**
- in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and
- in Jesus Christ as our Lord and
- in Jesus Christ as our only Mediator
- in Jesus Christ as our only High Priest

JESUS CHRIST is the one and only road to heaven

JESUS CHRIST SET US FREE

From what? From the **ceremonial laws** of Moses!!
(Gen 22:18 Gal 3 in total but see Gal3:13 Gal 4:9-11; **Gal 5:1; Gal 5:4**)

The **only two sacraments left** that Jesus order us to keep in the new Testament/covenant is :

- baptizing	-	It is where we as His children accept/undersign the new covenant (Matt 28:19;Mar16:16; Act 2:38 etc) and
- the Lords supper	-	So that we may remember what Jesus Christ has done for us and reconcile us to God. God cannot forget but He knew we will forget if there is not something that remind us. (Mat 26:26-30; Mar14:22-26; Luk 22:14-23; 1Cor11:23-29)

Good works

Now the human being will always try to DO something so that he could be saved and go to heaven But that is not how it work because God is sovereign and He has already chosen (past time) His own people. (Rom 8 ; Rom 9)

Good works can **never save** your life - (Contrary what all other religions believe- except the real Christian Religion) **(Rom 4:11-12)**

Good works can only be done out of thankfulness that God has chosen us and that other people can see God in our lives so that He can receive the glory - Not us

Good works is only the sign that you are reborn and are serving and obeying the Lord

Good works is not optional - We as Christians have to do it but not to deserve salvation. It is to obey the Lord and glorify God (1Pet 2:12)(Rom7:4)

Tradition

We must be very careful to keep on doing things because our forefathers had done it and especially if it not according to Gods will.
Sometimes people will use the excuse that it is for medical reasons or out of tradition or whatever reason BUT because it is something specific used by God and now "forbidden", I will be very careful to do it any longer. To me there must be a very very good and exceptional medical reason before I would circumcise.

Look what have Jesus say about tradition in Mat15:1-14; Mark 7:9,13
Look what have the apostle Paul say about tradition in Gal 1:14; Col 2:8; 2Thes 3:6

Look at things like
- Baptising of children under white people - Nowhere in scripture
- Circumcision - Various Religions - Was part of old Jewish ceremonial laws
- Keeping certain feast days
- Not allowed to eat certain foods like pork meat or certain breads or whatever (Mat 15:17 Col 2:16)

CONCLUSION

Moral laws - Not abolished - Is still in place today
10 Commandments is summary (Rom 6:22; Rom 7; Heb12:14)

Ceremonial laws is abolished - That does not mean that we do not have to do it any more **but** it means that we must not do it any more. If we still keep on doing it, it means that we do not accept that Jesus Christ died for our sins and that He paid the price already and then we are not part of His mercy and not part of His children. (Gal 2:15-16; Gal 5:4)

We are **not allow to circumcise** any more - Gal 2:3-5; **Gal 5:2-4**;

We must **not be led** by **our tradition** if it is against God word.

We must follow the teachings of the apostles about Jesus Christ, because they got their training directly from Him and He open their eyes to understand the scriptures (Luk24:45) and write the new testament - 2Thes 3:6

We **only** have to **believe in Jesus Christ** as our Lord and Saviour - Gal 2:19-21 Gal 3:13-14

We **only** have **to keep 2 sacraments** - Baptizing
- The Lords Supper

Circumcision

Rom 3:30 - We must believe to be saved

1 Cor 7:18-19 If you are circumcised when you became a Christian stay like that and if you are not circumcised when you became a Christian stay like that. But obey the Lords moral commands (Not ceremonial commands/laws)

Gal 2 Read whole chapter how Paul explain to other apostles that we are set free from circumcision

Gal 5: 1-12 Read how Apostle Paul explain to other apostles that we are set free from circumcision and not allow to do it any more

—000—000—000

Willem Zaaiman 0825565710
PO Box 30650, Sunnyside,0132