

CIRCUMCISION

In the following brief teaching I will explain why Yah first used physical circumcision as an outward sign of His covenant with His people. I will reveal why the physical circumcision of a man's penis was first used, as compared to the symbolic circumcision of the heart later on. **What happens in the spiritual first takes place in the physical** (1Cor. 15:46). This idea is called anthropomorphism.

Man's most powerful physical desire is his sexual desire. This is a simple fact that cannot be denied. There may be certain men that have little or no sexual desires, but that is not the norm. Most men have a strong desire for sex even though they may deny it. There is nothing wrong with their sexual desire, that is the way they were created, to keep the human species alive and fruitful. Controlling their desires can sometimes be very difficult, but once a man is truly "born again" that desire should be for his spouse only. That desire must be kept under control, just like the tongue. The tongue can project either blessings or curses according to the desire of the person's heart. So to man's sexual desires must be kept under control for the good of all.

When men have that sexual urge it shows up as an erection, this is simply reality. The penis becomes erect when his most powerful desire is being stimulated by thoughts, pictures, memories, and various other circumstances. For example, a man sees a beautiful woman or a woman that perhaps satisfies his idea of beauty, and he often gets stimulated, causing him to have an erection. This is a natural stimulation that must be kept under control. It is not necessarily a lustful thought causing stimulation, it is just his natural fleshly reaction to the physical attraction of the opposite sex. The simple fact is, this is man's most difficult fleshly act that is sometimes very difficult to keep under control, regardless of how happy the man may be with his life, or his spouse. It is just natural. That is why Yahveh chose the penis to be circumcised as an outer (fleshly) sign of man's keeping covenant with Yah. In the beginning circumcision was a mark of one who was a covenant keeper.

Why was a man's penis circumcised is the question?

As explained earlier, that is where man's natural sexual desire manifests itself, as an erection. The reason Yah chose that part of the human body is because it is the most difficult part of man's flesh to control, even if men are well aware of it. Yah had circumcision as the sign of the covenant because He wanted the most difficult fleshly part of the anatomy to be directed associated with the Almighty. Man's most powerful desire is to be overcome and directed towards the truth of the Living Word of Yah and His Son Yeshua. The point of man's most natural desire was to be towards his first love, which is supposed to be Yah. Man's first and most powerful desire should ultimately be his desire, want, and need to have a perfect heart and a lasting relationship with his creator. If man can keep his sexual desires directed elsewhere he can concentrate wholly on his relationship with the most important thing in his life.

Circumcision is "to move or cut to the front", mul (#4135). The foreskin is the front. Mul is not always translated as circumcision, but the concept of circumcision comes from that verbal root. That verbal root has a meaning that is displayed in everyday life. We must always keep in mind that all theological terms are embedded in everyday Hebrew life. That is the way Yah designed it to be. Whether you are a peasant or a king, if you

obey Yah's commandments you will be able to relate everything in Hebrew to everyday life. The Torah is family, a home, the sowing of seed, and harvesting of fruit. That is the basic idea of Torah. Mul also means God ward or forward as illustrated in **Exod. 18:18** *"Now listen to me: I shall give you counsel, and **God be with you**. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God,"* (see also Exod. 26:9, 28:25 & 34:3)

Circumcision has never changed. Circumcision is still required for all covenant keepers, but now that circumcision is symbolic. The circumcision is now of man's heart where the spirit, soul and flesh come together to direct the lifestyle of the "born again" Believer. All people who are His bride, are to have their hearts circumcised as a sign of their love for their Holy One of Israel.

Gen. 17:11-14 *You are to be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; this will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 Generation after generation, every male among you who is eight days old is to be **circumcised**, including slaves born within your household and those bought from a foreigner not descended from you. 13 The slave born in your house and the person bought with your money must be **circumcised**; thus my covenant will be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male who will not let himself be **circumcised** in the flesh of his foreskin — that person will be cut off from his people, because he has broken my covenant."* The word "circumcision" is used 87 times in the Tenakh. The Hebrew word used here is "keseph" (#3701) which means "silver, or by application, money". It is symbolically used throughout the scriptures to represent the blood. "You were bought with the blood of the lamb". Everything rests on blood. The entire tabernacle rested on silver sockets. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. We also know that the Messiah's blood was betrayed with silver.

Jer. 4:4 *"**Circumcise** yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My wrath go forth like fire And burn with none to quench it, Because of the evil of your deeds."*

Jer. 9:25-26 *"**Behold, the days are coming**," declares the LORD, "that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised — 26 Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the sons of Ammon, and Moab, and all those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart."*

Deut. 10:16 *"**Circumcise then your heart**, and stiffen your neck no more.*

Deut. 30:6 *"Moreover the LORD your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.*

Rom. 2:28-29 *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; **and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*

Gen. 17:12-14 *"**And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations**, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. 13 "A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised;*

thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person **shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.**"

1Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.** Paul is saying here that we were purchased with a price. The price is the blood. When we are obedient to Him we glorify His body. Notice Paul doesn't say "glorify God in your spirit", Paul is being very specific. We are to glorify Yah in our body and our spirit. In the lesser and the greater. We display the wonderful works of Yah to the world when we are obedient to His Word. Others around us see this obedience and should think that we have a wonderful Yah. In this day and age the world does not know that there is only one God, so we must show them by our actions and the result of our actions, that there is only one God (1Kgs. 8:60). **1Kgs. 8:60** "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no one else".

EXAMPLES OF THE WORD CIRCUMCISION USED IN VARIOUS WAYS IN SCRIPTURE

1. In the days of Abraham. **Gen. 17:14** "And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."
2. In the days of Yacob. **Gen. 34:14** "And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is **uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us:**
3. Uncircumcised lips. **Exod. 6:12** "And Moses spake before the Elohim, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, **who am of uncircumcised lips?**
4. No Passover for uncircumcised. **Exod.:12:48** " And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the Passover to the Elohim, **let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.**
5. Unclean things are also called uncircumcised. **Lev. 19:23** "And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall **count the fruit thereof as uncircumcised: three years shall it be as uncircumcised unto you: it shall not be eaten of.**
6. Uncircumcised heart. **Lev. 26:41** "And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then **their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:**
7. Uncircumcised was reproach. **Josh. 5:7-9** And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.
8. Dislike uncircumcised. **Jgs.14:3;15:18** "And he was sore athirst, and called on the Elohim, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and **fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?**
9. Uncircumcised are not equal to Circumcised. **1Sam.17:26** "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine,

and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living Almighty?

10. No entry to Zion for uncircumcised. **Isa. 52:1** "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth **there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.**

11. Uncircumcised ear. **Jer. 6:10** "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, **their ear is uncircumcised,**..

12. Uncircumcised will be punished. **Jer. 9:25,26** "Behold, the days come, saith the Elohim, **that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised;**

13. Uncircumcised will be killed. **Ezek. 28:10** "Thou shalt die the **deaths of the uncircumcised** by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Elohim YAH...

14. Uncircumcised will be slain. **Ezek. 31:18** "To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: **thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain** by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Elohim Yah...

15. No entrance for Uncircumcised. **Ezek. 44:7,9:9** "Thus saith the Elohim Yah...; No stranger, **uncircumcised in heart**, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel.

16. Uncircumcised in heart and ear. **Acts:7:51** "Ye stiff-necked and **uncircumcised in heart and ears**, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. **Deut. 10:16** "**Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart**, and be no more stiffnecked.

IS CIRCUMCISION A JEWISH THING?

Many people say that circumcision is a Jewish thing, but as you recall Abraham was the one who made the covenant of circumcision with Yah. "Britmilah" is Hebrew for covenant of circumcision. Abraham however was not a Jew, he was Hebrew. Abraham's grandson Judah was the first Jew. Many don't realize that circumcision was, is technically only applicable to those living in the Promised land of Israel proper. As you recall in the story of the Exodus, the Israelites were not circumcised until they were in the promised land. Although it is not a command outside the Nation of Israel proper, it is of course certainly a sign that is most highly regarded for both scriptural and medical reasons.

Most Jews use the physical concept of circumcision as a mark that distinguishes the Jews from all the rest of the people. Many Rabbis do agree that circumcision has both a physical and a spiritual significance however. This is simply a silly idea, because in order to know if one was a Jew or not by that understanding they would have to walk around naked. It is a fact that throughout the 1930's-80's most people circumcised their sons at birth, so how could it be a sign of someone that is Jewish only. However in the last thirty or so years there has been a movement to not have your child circumcised. This is the work of the deceiver. Do we follow the commands of Yah or the ways of the world. It is a call we must all make.

In the book of Maccabees we see a verse that explains what many Jews thought was a compromise with the gentiles. **1Macc. 1:11** "*in those days, there appeared in Israel*

*men who were breakers of the law. And they seduced many people saying: let us go and make an alliance with the gentiles who are all around us. Since we separated from them many evils have come upon us". The proposal was agreeable, some from among the people promptly went to the king and he authorized them to introduce the way of living among the gentiles. There upon they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem according to the gentile customs. **They covered over their mark of circumcision and abandoned the holy covenant.** They have allied themselves with the gentiles and sold themselves to wrong doing" Many Jews feel because they are separated from the gentiles they are constantly picked on. If they go along with the gentile ways and not the command of Yah in regards to circumcision, they will get along and fit in society in a more productive way.*

Yah says that we would turn away from His ways, and that is just one more way in which it is taking place. The sabbath is a sign, the feasts are a sign, the everlasting rainbow is a sign, and circumcision is also a sign of Yah's people. These signs are supposed to distinguish Yah's people from everybody else. That's why He gave His peculiar people these signs, so the whole world would be able to see that they are set apart, special, different, because they are holy and obedient to His commands (Exod. 19:5). The bottom line is not that Yah gave us these commands so that we would look different, when you obey Yah you are different from everybody else. That's what singles us out, that's what makes us peculiar. That is our mark on our forehead, so to speak, as opposed to the mark of the beast which is also in the forehead or right hand. These represent the things we think and the things we do. The mark of the beast represents the things of the lawless ones, the torahless ones. The mark of the faithful of Yah compared to the mark of the lawless wicked ones not of Yah.

Every commandment has a physical reason and a spiritual reason (anthropomorphism). Usually the physical principal is revealed first as shown in Paul's writing. **1Cor. 15:46** *However, **the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.***" We learn the spiritual by being obedient to the natural. When this happens we can go back and begin to see the function and purpose of the natural so it can reveal the spiritual. We don't do things for no reason, there is always a spiritual reason for us being obedient in the natural things.

Luke 2:21 *And when **eight days were completed** before His circumcision, His name was then called Yeshua, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb."* Yeshua was circumcised on the eight day.

Why does circumcision take place of the eight day?

Adonai tells us to do circumcision on the eight day and you can be sure He has a reason for that specific time period. Circumcision is done on the 8th day because it stands for a new beginning. It just so happens that vitamin K is at its peak point eight days after birth. Vitamin K is what is needed to control blood clotting. That is the perfect time to do such surgery.

Yeshua said: *"take up your stake and follow me"*. Paul was also circumcised on the eighth day as per **Phil. 3:5** *Paul said: "follow me as I follow the Messiah"*. Yeshua teaches on the weightier matters in the Book of Matthew. **Matt. 23:23** *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected **the weightier** provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the*

things you should have done without neglecting the others.” According to weightier matters Yah would rather have the heart circumcised where currently the flesh is not, than to have the flesh circumcised if the heart is not.

The skin cut off during circumcision is called the "heart". This is not coincidence. Circumcision of the heart is the greater circumcision. Circumcision of the flesh (heart) is the lesser. If one cannot do the lesser, how can he do the greater? Yah is showing us spiritual realities with lesser things. He is always trying to bring us into the greater by seeing if we will be obedient to the lesser.

In the beginning Yah used part of the flesh of a man to demonstrate the control He wanted people to have over their fleshly lives and thoughts. That fleshly control needed to be put under spiritual control. The ultimate goal for all of us Believers is to be lead by the spirit. If we are “spirit filled”, we are lead by our spirit. If we are lead by our spirit, which in turn is lead by His Spirit, we will be accomplishing the desire Yah has for our life. Guidance of our spirit by His Spirit, along with the co-operation of the soul, should control the fleshly desires that cause problems in our lives. Keeping our fleshly soulish desires under the authority of our will is never an easy task, but it should be the goal of all those who claim to be Yah’s children. The blessings come when we are obedient to His Living Word. The only way we can ever be truly obedient to His Word is by forcibly keeping dominion over our fleshly desires.

(Mar 15/16) Jerry Hennig