



“And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus...” - Luke 2:21

Feast of the Circumcision

The Purpose of Circumcision in Scripture

1. It separated the descendants of Abraham by a sign and seal

- Sign
- Seal
- “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise...” (Eph. 1:13)



The Purpose of Circumcision in Scripture

2. Induction into the family of God Sign

- “This is *My* covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised...And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people.” (Gen. 17:10, 14)

The Purpose of Circumcision in Scripture

3. Symbol of alliance

- “And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”
(Exo. 12:48-49)
- It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance,” says the Lord God. (Ezk. 47:22-23)



The Purpose of Circumcision in Scripture

4. It prefigured the mystery of baptism

- “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:5)



Significance of the circumcision of the Lord Jesus

1. It was a sign of His obedience to the Father
 - “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil. 2:8)
2. Prefigured His death
 - “*He shed His blood by drops, which afterwards he poured out in purple streams.*” (Matthew Henry)
3. This was the beginning of the end for Satan

Why is it significant that we celebrate this Feast?

1. We are consecrated to the Lord

- It is both an internal and external activity
- “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:2)
- “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
(1 Cor. 9:27)

Why is it significant that we celebrate this Feast?

2. Baptism is a vow of faithfulness

- *“I renounce you Satan, and all your unclean works...”* (Baptismal Prayers)
- *“I confess You, O Christ my God, and all Your saving laws...I believe in on God...”* (Baptismal Prayers)



Why is it significant that we celebrate this Feast?

3. Cut off the old nature

- “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh...” (Phil. 3:3)
- The flesh is weak and helpless
 - “For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.” (Rom. 7:14-17)
 - “He has taken it [sin] out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” (Col. 2: 14-15)

Why is it significant that we celebrate this Feast?

4. Time for a new beginning

- “At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.” (Jos. 5:2)