

Verse 6 delivers a promise from the Lord: *And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.* It is just one of many blessings that will be conferred upon the people of Israel **when** (not **if**) they come into obedience to the Lord.

Circumcision is a visible, irreversible acknowledgment of belonging to God. Circumcision of the heart is just as radical but takes place in the innermost seat of thoughts and feelings. Related verses include:

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may

fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them (Jeremiah 32:38-39).

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).

Back in Deuteronomy 10:16 we read this command: *Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.* But notice that under this new covenant that the Lord will enter into with Israel, it is the Lord who will do the work. And it is not a patched up heart He offers. It is an altogether new one.

Questions:

1. Have the blessings of verses 1-10 occurred in history? If not, when will they?
2. What is the condition for these blessings to come about? Who is responsible for meeting that condition?
3. When have the children of Israel been dispersed as described in verse 1?

4. Verses 11-14 are modified and quoted in Romans 10:6-9. What is similar between the two passages? What is different?

5. What in verses 15-20 resembles the gospel?