

Genesis 15: The Covenant of God

God is Faithful

Section 1: 15:1-6 – God Promises, Abram Believes

After these events, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great.

²But Abram said, “Lord God, what can you give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³Abram continued, “Look, you have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir.”

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to him: “This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir.” ⁵He took him outside and said, “Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “Your offspring will be that numerous.”

⁶Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

“I am your shield.” Because God’s Word cannot be broken and He promises Abram an offspring...nothing can come against Abram. The Lord Himself is protecting Abram from the enemy (Ephesians 6:12).

- Matthew 6:25-34
- Philippians 1:6
- Psalm 119:114
- 1 Peter 1:24-25

“Your reward will be very great.” Abram’s reward is Jesus.

- John 8:56
- Philippians 3:7-11
- Revelation 21:3-4

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How does the fact “God’s Word cannot be broken” strengthen your faith?
- ❖ Are you seeking God Himself above all?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God Himself is our reward?

Section 2: 15:7-16 – Even in Suffering God’s Plan is Coming to Pass

⁷He also said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”

⁸But he said, “Lord God, how can I know that I will possess it?”

⁹He said to him, “Bring me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

¹⁰So he brought all these to him, cut them in half, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was setting, a deep sleep came over Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him.

¹³Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know this for certain: Your offspring will be resident aliens for four hundred years in a land that does not belong to them and will be enslaved and oppressed. ¹⁴However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will go out with many possessions. ¹⁵But you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

In reading the interactions between Abram and God we must remember that the promises God is making will be fulfilled in Christ. God doesn't want us consumed with the short term. He is continually pointing us to the eternal. This is why God speaks to Abram about the 400 years of captivity.

If you remember Abram was looking forward to the city built by God.

- Hebrews 11:8-10

God had a clear plan for Jesus' first coming and He has a clear plan for Jesus' second coming as well. Everything God intends to accomplish will be accomplished.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Which matters more to you...your life now or the kingdom God has prepared for eternity?
- ❖ How do your actions show that you are more considered about sharing the gospel and storing up treasures in heaven than storing up treasures here on earth?

Section 3: 15:17-21 – God's Promise is Coming and will be fulfilled in Christ

¹⁷When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “I give this land to your offspring, from the Brook of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River: ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hethites, Perizzites, Rephaim, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.”

God has a set plan. The land belongs to God. He will determine who lives on it. Nothing can change this fact. God will have His way. You can fight like all these nations have done but, in the end, God will have the land.

- Luke 19:37-40

This reality is what we build our hope and peace upon. We can know that God will accomplish His plan. It's not up for debate. Once you embrace this reality it frees your faith. If God calls you to sell everything and go to China. Why not...what God wants to be accomplished will be accomplished. If God calls you to move and plant a church. Why not...what God wants to be accomplished will be accomplished.

You can set your faith free by embracing the Word of God as an unchangeable fact. What do believers have to fear? Nothing. Why? Because God wins. This is why Paul boldly proclaims... *“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (Phil. 1:21 CSB).

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God's Word is unchangeable and unstoppable?
- ❖ How are you joining in on what God is setting out to accomplish?
- ❖ Are you willing to give up all the pleasures of this world for a closer walk with God?
- ❖ Are you testing all things and holding to the truth (as revealed in God's Word) so that you may glorify God above all?