

GENESIS 15: RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH.

I. (1-5):

Here is the first reference to a “vision”.

Here for the first time we read the words “Fear not”

Here is the first mention of God as a “Shield”. “ADONAI JEHOVAH” — LORD GOD.

Abram was in fear of a possible attack by his enemies knowing he wasn’t able to win another battle.

He was highly concerned about an heir yet he didn’t have a child yet.

God answers his fears and concerns by promising him;

- Protection.
- An everlasting reward.
- A biological heir.
- A multitude of descendants.

II. 6.

Abram believes/trusts that God would keep His promises and He is declared righteous.

Abram left his home in obedience to God’s call; he went to the Promised Land trusting God’s promises. Now he believes and trusts and is confident that God’s promise would come to pass – a son, Isaac and a Son – Jesus Christ.

Habakkuk 2:4 – *Behold, the proud, his soul is not upright in him, but the just shall live by his faith.*

Habakkuk 3:17-19 - *Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.*

Romans 4:20-22 - *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that what He had promised, He was able also to perform” and therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*

Ephesians 2:8 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not by yourselves; it is the gift of God.*

Whereas Abram believed God *would* give him a son, we believe that God *has* given us His Son, and through His death and resurrection from the dead a Savior is ours through faith.

Romans 10:9 – *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:17- *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Though we Christians may believe God with respect to the common concerns of this life, asking and expecting God to take care of them, faith is full dependence upon Him through Jesus Christ.

III. 7-20: Covenant Signed.

Abram believes but still asks for a sign; amazing how relational and conversational our God is. How're these things going to happen?

God told him to give an offering of flesh and blood: three year old animals and some birds. Later on Jesus would be crucified after three years of ministry, his body would be broken and blood shed.

Matthew 26:28 - *“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

The different animals here are such that everyone can make an offering, the rich and the poor.

God, in form of smoke and light, passed by the sacrifice alone; receiving it while Abram was deep asleep. **Romans 5:8** - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Abram is given a glimpse of the future; his descendants in Egypt and the Exodus.

- **First**, Abram's descendants were to be strangers in a land not theirs
- **Second**, in that strange land they were to “serve”
- **Third**, they were to be “afflicted” four hundred years.
- **Fourth**, the nation whom Abram's descendants “served” would be “judged”
- **Fifth**, Abram's offspring were to leave Egypt with “great substance”.
- **Sixth**, Abram would die in peace and be buried in a good old age
- **Seventh**, Abram's descendants would return again to Canaan.

IV. I have given...

After the conversation, the sacrifices, the reception, God grants the Promise.

John 19:30 - *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**It is finished!**” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*