

Character Study: Abraham
Part 4 – The Promise Confirmed
Genesis 15

What's happening?

- The Lord came to Abraham in a vision and told him not to be afraid, for the Lord Himself was his shield and exceedingly great reward. Abraham responded by asking how God would bless his descendants being that he had no children and his only heir was one of his servants. (15:1-3)
- God promised him that he would in fact have a child of his own, and that the child would be his heir. He reminded him that his descendants would be as many in number as the stars. Abraham believed Him and God “counted it to him as righteousness.” (15:4-6)
- God had Abraham kill a few animals, which caused vultures to come. Abraham was afraid, but God used that to show that his descendants would be strangers in a foreign land for about 400 years, during which time they would be servants and face affliction. But God said that He would deliver them and bring them back to their land with great possessions. (15:7-16)
- God confirmed His covenant, telling Abraham that his descendants would have the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River. (15:17-21)

What's God doing?

> God is assuring Abraham that He will be faithful to what He has promised. He is warning that difficult days would be ahead, but regardless of the trouble that will come, Abraham can trust God to do what He had promised.

What's to learn?

→ We see that Abraham's belief in the Lord was credited to him as righteousness. In our sinful state, we cannot stand before a holy God who requires His people to be righteous. Trying to be a “good” person cannot remove the fact of our sinfulness. Only through faith can the righteousness we need be credited to us. Praise God for His grace! (Note Romans 4:2-5)

→ By promising to give Abraham a child, God assured His promises would be fulfilled just as He had said. Even with the uncertainties or troubles we may face in this world, God's promises stand true!

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