

Living as Sons and Daughters of Abraham Series

Session 7 Focus: Abram and the Covenant of Promise

Key Scripture: [Genesis 15](#)

1. Sons and Daughters of Abraham

- As believers in Christ, we are described as sons and daughters of Abraham, not through law or duty, but through promise and faith.
- Abraham's life models a journey of trusting God's promises rather than striving to earn righteousness.
- Our walk, like Abraham's, flows from Christ in us—the fulfillment of promise.

2. Context: After the Victory

- Genesis 15 begins with the phrase, "*After these things...*", pointing back to Abram's recent victory in rescuing Lot and defeating the kings.
- Abram refused the spoils of war, declaring that God alone would be his provider.
- Often, after major victories, there is a season of regrouping, reflection, and vulnerability.

3. God Comes in a Vision

- God speaks to Abram in a vision, reminding us that God may speak in various ways, including visions and dreams.
- God's first words address fear: "*Fear not, Abram. I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.*"
- God reveals Himself as both protector and reward.

4. Abram's Honest Question

- Abram expresses his deep concern: he is still childless, and his heir appears to be Eliezer of Damascus.
- God responds clearly: Abram's heir will be his own son.
- God takes Abram outside and invites him to look at the stars—an invitation to see beyond present circumstances.

5. Belief and Righteousness

- "*And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.*"
- Righteousness comes through believing God's promise, not through law-keeping.
- This mirrors the gospel reality of our own salvation by faith.

6. The Covenant Ceremony

- God instructs Abram to prepare specific animals, which Abram cuts in half—a common practice in ancient blood covenants.
- Such covenants symbolized a binding agreement unto death.
- Birds of prey attempt to disrupt the sacrifice, and Abram actively drives them away, showing perseverance amid delay.

7. Abram Put to Sleep

- As night falls, Abram enters a deep, divinely induced sleep accompanied by great darkness.
- God reveals future events: Abram's descendants will be sojourners and afflicted for 400 years, yet will later come out with great possessions.
- God's timing includes justice; the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet complete.

8. God Alone Walks Through the Covenant

- A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch pass between the pieces, symbolizing God's presence.
- Abram does not walk through the covenant—God alone does.
- This reveals that the covenant is entirely God-initiated and God-sustained.

9. Fulfillment in Christ

- Abram could not uphold the covenant by himself—neither can we.
- This points forward to Jesus, who shed His own blood to establish a new covenant on our behalf.
- As jars of clay, we carry the fire and light of Christ within us.

10. Promise, Purpose, and Rest

- God reaffirms the promise of land with specific boundaries, showing clarity and intentionality.
- God speaks much of this while Abram is asleep, emphasizing rest over striving.
- Promise without purpose leaves a void; God desires to reveal both His promises and His purposes to us.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is Abram's belief counted as righteousness such a foundational truth for our faith?

2. Why was it significant that God, and not Abram, walked through the covenant pieces?

3. How does this covenant foreshadow the work of Christ on the cross?

Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think God spoke to Abram immediately after a great victory?

2. How does God addressing Abram's fear speak to areas of fear in your own life?

3. What do the birds of prey represent in seasons of waiting for God's promises?

4. In what ways do you struggle to rest in God's promises instead of striving to fulfill them yourself?

Weekly Challenge

Resting in the Covenant of Promise

This week, intentionally practice resting in God's promises rather than striving to earn outcomes.

- Spend time each day thanking God for one promise He has already fulfilled in your life.
- Identify one area where you are asking, "What about me, God?" and bring it honestly before Him in prayer.
- Meditate on Genesis 15:6 and reflect on what it means to be made righteous through faith.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how God is working on your behalf, even in areas where you feel weary or uncertain.

Remember: the covenant is upheld by God, not by your performance. Walk forward in faith, trust, and rest.