

## 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.

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## Discussion Questions

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

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

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

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## Reflection Questions

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

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

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

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

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## 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.*