

BETWEEN THE PIECES

Genesis 15:6 “And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”

Genesis 15 is one of the greatest culminating points in all of the scriptures. Today, in the text, God commits himself to death to redeem and save His wayward people. Though Abraham doesn't fully understand the depth of this promise, we should, as we live on the other side of the cross from Abraham.

This chapter falls into two closely related sections:

- (v. 1–6) address Abram's concern that he is still childless;
- (v. 7–21) focus on Abram's desire to have a divine pledge that the land of Canaan will belong to his descendants.

Both of these elements are essential components of nationhood. God's original promise in Genesis 12:2, that Abram will become a “great nation,” is now guaranteed by a covenant; although the fulfillment will not take place until several centuries after Abram's death.

Covenant is about relationship. In covenant, by visible decree, God connects Himself to His people; by doing this God shows Himself to be trustworthy.

Trust is the basis for any relationship to have positive meaning.

The question we consciously (or subconsciously) ask is:

- Is God trustworthy?
- If He makes a promise, do we trust He will keep it?

So far in Genesis we have seen that Adam didn't believe God was trustworthy enough to truly follow Him and trust Him for all the good, but Abraham, even with all his quirks, said “yes, God is trust worthy.”

God makes a promise to Abraham in 2 parts:

- ***I am your shield*** - God was/is Abraham's and our protector and defender. The simple truth is that God covers and defends us.

Ps 115:11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.

Ps 119:114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

Ps 144:2 He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and He in whom I take refuge.

- ***Your reward shall be very great.***” The material reward from Chapter 14 Abraham let go of. God now promises a recompense of a different kind. God essentially says “*Abraham, you get me.*” God was his reward. We can be poor, sick, lost – and be rich indeed.

In a covenant, usually a weaker party pledges themselves to a stronger party (as in Jeremiah 34), but in Genesis 15 God pledges Himself to HIS OWN covenant because man has nothing to offer.

God is committing Himself to death to fulfill His words. “*You will get a son, that will lead to Jesus, you will get land, but also become a nation.*” Abraham asks, “How can I be sure?” God responds “*I will commit myself to death to make it happen.*” Eventually, Jesus becomes a man and dies a bloody brutal death to bring about the terms of the covenant given to Abraham to bless all nations of the earth.

Covenant is about devotion.

God passes through the pieces, this means:

- God will fulfill His promises no matter what.
- God obligated Himself to Abraham and those who follow Christ no matter what.

This is an unconditional covenant. God promises that no matter what, He will save sinners. Years later Jesus Christ, son of God, son of Abraham, comes and walks through the pieces.

This covenant has called us to believe in Jesus Christ. It has called us to understand that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. We are all covenant breakers, and yet Jesus trades Himself for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Newcomer Party

August 17th

<http://goo.gl/b5Wol>

