

The Blood

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Lesson 4: Genesis 15:1-21 The covenant confirmed between God and Abram by blood.

Introduction: Genesis 15 is an incredibly important chapter that contains a seven fold prophecy and the establishment of a covenant by a blood sacrifice. There are also several first mentions found in this chapter: first time the phrase "The word of the Lord came unto me", first reference to a "vision", first time the words "Fear not", first mention of God as a "Shield", first occurrence of the Divine title "Adonai Jehovah (Lord God)", and first time the words "believed", "counted" (reckoned), and "righteousness" are used.

I) The Prerequisite: v.1-3

A. A Declaration: v.1

"After these things" ties content of message back to previous chapter. → *Deliverance of Lot*
"I AM thy Shield" speaks of protection from enemy which was defeated by *Introduction of Melchizedek*
Abram and his servants
"thy exceeding great reward" reference to Abram's refusal to take any earthly riches from the hands of worldly kings (Gen. 14:22-24) and the reward God Himself was going to bestow upon Abram in return.

B. A Desire: v.2-3

v.2 "Lord God, what will Thou give me seeing I go childless" Shows the desire of Abram's heart. NOT language of irreverence or unbelief, but language of faith. (no rebuke given by God over statement shows the attitude of statement was pure and right)

v. 3 "Behold, to me Thou hast given no seed" Abram understood to go childless was to lose the inheritance. (Heirship is based upon Sonship-Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:5,11)

II) The Promise: v.4-6

A. A Promised Son: v.4

* Surity of the promise found in the words "And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto me" and "he that shall come forth out of thine OWN bowels SHALL be thine heir"

B. A Providential Sign: v.5-6



1. The Association: v.5 "heaven" and "stars" speaking of the Promise of Christ (contrast with Gen. 13:16 "I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth" speaking of Promise of Canaan)

2. The Acceptance: v.6

"And he believed the Lord" literally rendered "And he stayed himself upon the Lord"



"He counted it to him for righteousness" Though Abram left Ur by faith (Heb. 11:8), that faith is NOT mentioned with righteousness (justification) until Gen. 15. Because it is associated with the promise of "the Seed" (Christ).

Shows there is NO justification without Christ (Gal.3:16)

At the time God promised Abram an heir his body was "as good as dead" (Heb. 11:12; Romans 4:20-21). Abram believed God would give him a son by quickening his body. We believe God HAS given us a Son by death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)



"For I delivered into you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

Gal. 3:16 "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He said not, And to seeds, as many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

III) The Performance: v.7-21

A. The Asking in the Confirmation: v.7-8

v. 8 NOT an act of unbelief by Abram in asking for a "sign". Covenants were "sealed" or confirmed by signs. Ex. Adam and coat of skins, Noah and rainbow, etc.

B. The Action in the Confirmation: v.9-21

1. The Specifics for Confirmation: v.9-10

v.9 animals-"heifer" speaks of strength "goat" speaks of sin (offering) "ram" speaks of sanctification (consecration or setting apart) "birds" speaks of Sovereignty

escape goat



Note: ALL animals were clean and tame speaking of willing surrender. v.10- arraignment. "divided them in the midst" speaks of sacrifice (Heb.9:22).

Sacrifice was to form the basis for a covenant (Jer. 34:18-19)

2. The Stedfastness in Confirmation: v.11

"drove them away" shows energy of faith. Example: Two farmers praying for rain. One farmer tilled land, planted seed, and pulled weeds. The other farmer did nothing but watch for rain. Only one had true faith.)

3. The Sovereignty of the Confirmation: v.12-21

By Death: v.12-14 Inheritance gained by death "deep sleep" and suffering "afflict" (Acts 14:22; Romans 8:17)

Awakening from "deep sleep" picture of resurrection from the dead (Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:11-12)

Seven-fold prophecy literally fulfilled in Exodus and typical in salvation v.13 "Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their's"

Gen. 22:1 "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Abraham, and he slept, and he took one of his ribs, and closed it up, and made a man out of them."

Resurrection is living hope of believer with faith in Resurrection what faith can create us? what can ever do.

v.13 "and shall serve them:"

v.13 "and they shall afflict them four hundred years" (Ex. 12:40 Children of Israel's ENTIRE sojourn in Egypt 430 years. Approx. 30 years of prosperity under Joseph, and 400 years affliction under new Pharoah)

v. 14 "And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge"

v. 14 "and afterwards shall they come out with great substance."

v. 15" And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace"

*v.16" But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again" (Exodus 6:16-26 fulfilled EXACTLY. Levi (Ex. 6:16), Kohath (Ex. 6:16), Amram (Ex. 6:18), Moses and Aaron (Ex. 6:20)

By Death: v.17-21

v.17 "Behold a smoking furnace and a burning lamp" speaks of the presence of the Lord

"passed between those pieces" confirmation of the covenant. NOTE: work done solely by God while Abram slept. Speaks of the covenant being unconditional. Divided animals also picture Israel (only clean animals used. Shows contrast of Israel with pagan nations)

v. 11 "fowls" speaks of enemy nations that would attempt to destroy Israel

*v.18-21 The Lord binds Himself to this covenant without any work from Abram.

v.18 "have I given" contrast with Ge. 13:15 "For all the land which thou seest to thee WILL I give it". "Have I given" shows the confirmation based on blood sacrifice-picture of sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.