

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 4
Gen. 15

Getting Started

- ❖ Recall and share an occasion where you were frustrated with how your life was going and how this affected your relationship with God.

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. Abraham's Fear and Doubt (v.1-5)
 - A. The understandable source of Abraham's fear
 - B. God's words of comfort trigger Abraham's expression of concern and doubt
 - C. Abraham's fear and doubt reveals how our own fears and doubts work.
 - i. Flow out of our view of God whether it be confusion or condemnation
 - ii. Flow out of our view of Ourselves and abilities/identity
 - D. God doesn't reject those who bring their fears and doubts to Him in a healthy way.
2. God's Reassuring Covenant (v.7-20)
 - A. The Cutting of the Covenant explained
 - B. The Abrahamic Covenant is one chapter in God's "book" entitled the Covenant of Grace. There are many examples of God's grace on display in this chapter.
3. Our Place in God's Abrahamic Covenant (v.6)
 - A. The promises/prophecies of this covenant point us to the New Covenant.
 - B. Verse 6 is our point of solidarity with Abraham as we trust in the good news of the New Covenant.
 - C. The New Testament's usage of verse 6 helps us understand what was happening between God and Abraham in Genesis 15.

Takeaway Truth: Real security and a lasting heritage comes from trusting God and His covenantal promises.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read all of chapter 15 and answer the following:
 - How does God's promise to Abram in Genesis 15 differ from the two previous promises in Genesis 12:2-3 and 13:14-17?
 - How did God's sign (Gen. 15:8-21) answer Abram's doubt?
 - Why was the fulfillment of the promise delayed?
 - Abram doubted God, yet was not disobedient. What is the difference between obedient doubt and rebellious doubt?
 - How did the covenant ceremony recorded in chapter 15 foreshadow Christ? What is the significance of the fact that only God passed through the pieces?

Apply It!

- ❖ How does this chapter of the Bible help you to deal with the gap in your life between what God has promised to you and what you currently experience?

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- ❖ Do you see ways in which God has unilaterally worked in your life, taking on Himself the responsibility for your well-being?
- ❖ Would you say your doubts about God are due to confusion about what He is doing or who He is or are they due to condemnation of His actions or person?
- ❖ Are you living authentically with God and other members of your group?
 - Is there at least one member of your group or our church who you are totally transparent with who can bring accountability into your life?
 - If not, what is holding you back in this area?
 - What needs to take place in your group for more authenticity to exist?

Think About It!

Abram believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Why? Not because he was perfect—the Scriptures are painfully honest in revealing his flaws and shortcomings. But it was reckoned to him as righteousness because his faith was in God, who would in Christ bear the covenant curse himself. His faith was in him who in Christ lived the perfect life on behalf of his people. So it is for all who will repent and believe during this period of forbearance before Jesus Christ returns to judge the world. There is forgiveness and new life for the one who takes hold of the covenant-keeping God by faith. As surely as Abram’s descendants would possess the land that God had promised them, so shall his spiritual children possess the heavenly Land of Promise.¹

NOTE: Study questions for this year’s annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

¹ Duguid, I. M. (1999). [*Living in the Gap between Promise and Reality: The Gospel according to Abraham*](#). (T. Longman III & J. A. Groves, Eds.) (p. 61). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 14, 2021 | Transfiguration of the Lord

WORSHIP SONGS

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

Words by Isaac Watts, 1715 / German Melody

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at His command and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food.
He formed the creatures with His word and then pronounced them
good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye.
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known;
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from Thy throne.
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
and everywhere that man can be, Thou, God art present there.

DEATH WAS ARRESTED

*Words and Music by Brandon Coker, Adam Kersh,
Paul Taylor Smith and Heath Balltzglier, 2015*

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin; lost without hope with
no place to begin. Your love made a way to let mercy come in
when death was arrested and my life began.

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains. My orphan heart was
given a name. My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance
when death was arrested and my life began.

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me. You have made me new,
now life begins in You. It's your endless love pour down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.*

Released from my chains, I'm a prisoner no more. My shame
was a ransom He faithfully bore. He cancelled my debt and He
called me His friend, when death was arrested and my life began.

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross; darkness rejoiced as
though Heaven had lost. But, then Jesus arose with our freedom
in hand, that's when death was arrested and my life began.

AT THE CROSS (LOVE RAN RED)

*Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Armstrong,
Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, 2014*

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies. There's a place
where streams of grace flow deep and wide. Where all the love I've
ever found comes like a flood, come flowing down.

*At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life; I'm in awe of you, I'm in
awe of you. Where your love ran red and my sin washed white,
I owe all to you; I owe all to you, Jesus.*

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless. Where my heart
has peace with God and forgiveness. Where all the love I've ever
found come like a flood, comes flowing down.

Here my hope is found, here on holy ground. Here I bow down,
Here I bow down. Here arms open wide, here you saved my life,
Here I bow down, here I bow down.

LIVING HOPE

Words and Music by Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham, 2017

How great the chasm that lay between us, how high the mountain I
could not climb. In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your
name into the night. Then through the darkness Your loving kindness
tore through the shadows of my soul. The work is finished,
the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such
boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear
my sin and bear my shame. The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The
King of kings calls me His own. Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

*Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah!
Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain;
there's salvation in Your name. Jesus Christ, my living hope!*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body
began to breathe. Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared the
grave has no claim on me. Jesus Yours is the victory.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 117; Daniel 7:9-14; 2 Corinthians 3:1-9; John 12:27-36
MONDAY | Ps. 5; Deuteronomy 6:1-15; Hebrews 1:1-14; John 1:1-18
TUESDAY | Ps. 102; Deut. 6:16-25; Hebrews 2:1-10; John 1:19-28
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 27; Jonah 3:1-4:11; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 18:9-14
THURSDAY | Ps. 126; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Titus 1:1-16; John 1:29-34
FRIDAY | Ps. 105; Deuteronomy 7:12-16; Titus 2:1-15; John 1:35-42
SATURDAY | Ps. 43; Deut. 7:17-26; Titus 3:1-15; John 1:43-51

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Triune God, in the mystery of the transfiguration, we are given a
glimpse of your glory, and we bow in worship and adoration. We
behold your majesty and power as we hear the Father's voice from
heaven, saying: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Holy
Spirit, open our eyes that we may see the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



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