

GENESIS 15:1-21

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM

OCTOBER 28, 2018

CROSS-REFERENCES

Galatians 3:6-9 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? (7) Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. (8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." (9) So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:24-29 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (25) But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, (26) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

"Covenant" is an English translation of a Hebrew (berit) and Greek (diatheke) word that describes a formal relationship between two parties who agree to a set of promises so they can work together toward a common goal.

Genesis 15:1-21 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." (2) But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" (3) And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." (4) And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." (5) And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (6) And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (7) And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." (8) But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" (9) He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." (10) And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. (11) And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (12) As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. (13) Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. (14) But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (15) As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. (16) And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." (17) When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. (18) On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, (19) the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, (20) the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, (21) the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites." (ESV 2011)

**GOD'S GREAT PROMISE TO ABRAM (GENESIS 12 AND 13) INCLUDED TWO PARTS: THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND
GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM WAS BASED ON TWO GREAT REALITIES: FAITH AND GOD'S WORD
GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM: THE PEOPLE**

THE PROBLEM OF FEAR : ADDRESSED BY GOD'S CHARACTER
THE PROBLEM OF DOUBT : ADDRESSED BY GOD'S WORD
THE PROBLEM OF AN HEIR : ADDRESSED BY GOD'S PROMISE

- A PERSONAL PROMISE: A SON
- A UNIVERSAL PROMISE: OFFSPRING

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM: FAITH

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

ABRAM'S FAITH WAS A LANDMARK REALITY:

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)

- FAITH IN GOD'S CHARACTER
- FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE
- FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

ABRAM'S FAITH DEMONSTRATES A UNIVERSAL REALITY:

But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (Romans 4:23-25)

- DAVID WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH- HIS SINS WERE FORGIVEN
- GENTILES ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH- ABRAM WAS A GENTILE WHEN SAVED
- LAW KEEPERS ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH- THE LAW CAME 430 YEARS LATER

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM: THE LAND

THE PROBLEM OF _____ : ADDRESSED BY GOD'S ACTION
THE PROBLEM OF _____ : ADDRESSED BY GOD'S DELIVERANCE
THE PROBLEM OF _____ : ADDRESSED BY GOD'S PROMISED REST
THE PROBLEM OF _____ : ADDRESSED BY JUDGMENT

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM: GOD'S WORD

GOD'S WORD _____

- GOD DELIVERED ABRAM FROM _____
- GOD WILL DELIVER ABRAM'S OFFSPRING FROM _____
- GOD WILL DELIVER ABRAM'S OFFSPRING FROM THEIR _____

GOD'S WORD _____

- GOD WOULD PROVIDE A REMEDY FOR _____ FOR HIS PEOPLE
- GOD PROVIDED A _____ OF THE COVENANT
 - A _____ PROMISE
 - A _____ CURSE

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14)

HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?