

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE NIGHT

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Text: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

"After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. 8 And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? 9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. 10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. 11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him." (Genesis 15:1-12)

"And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." (Genesis 15:17-18)

- INTRODUCTION** - When did Abraham live?
- Pagan deity Asshur's temple built in 2500 BC
 - city of Ur began large decline about 2000 BC
 - King Hammurabi of Babylon
 - ruled as king 1792-1750 BC
 - he conquered all the cities along the Euphrates River
 - king Sargon the Great of Akkad united all cities in Mesopotamia 2300 BC

Quote: "There are seasons in the lives of all when it is not easy, no not even for Christians, to believe that God is faithful. Our faith is sorely tried, our eyes bedimmed with tears, and we can no longer trace the outworkings of His love...We are staggered. We sought to be faithful to God, and now a dark cloud hides Him from us. We find it difficult, yea, impossible, for carnal reason to harmonize His frowning providence with His gracious promises."—AW Pink

1. A STRENGTHENING Word (v. 1-4)

A. A word to Hear - ears

B. A sight to See - eyes

"He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power:" (Psalm 147:4-5a)

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:" (Isaiah 40:22)

Creator
God

2. A SAVING Gift (v. 6)

A. Belief

Def: Believe—firmness or certainty, to lean your whole weight upon

B. counted

Def: Counted—to reckon or impute Deposit into bank
~~= gift of God~~

C. Righteousness—gift of God

Def: Righteousness—conformity with a moral standard

"What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Romans 4:1-5)

- God made Jesus to be sin offering for us humans on the cross

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Quote: "True faith has nothing whatever of merit about it, and in its highest sense, it cannot be called a 'work.' It is but laying hold of a Savior's hand, leaning on a husband's arm, and receiving a physician's medicine. It brings with it nothing to Christ but a sinful man's soul. It gives nothing, contributes nothing, pays nothing, performs nothing. It only receives, takes, accepts, grasps, and embraces the glorious gift of justification which Christ bestows, and by renewed daily acts enjoys the gift."—J.C. Ryle

3. A SACRIFICIAL Covenant (v. 9-21)

- A. Abram Asks for confirmation - proof
- B. God Answers with a covenant - treaty

CONCLUSION

- Abram left Ur of the Chaldees (wealthy)
 - Abram moved to Canaan, place of small towns
 - Abram believed God's promises
 - God makes everlasting treaty
- Akkadian Empire 2330-2083 BC

