



Good News B.C.
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“God Is”
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Key Verses: Genesis 15:1-21

Key Thought: Abram’s trust in God’s faithfulness— despite his circumstances, serves as an example for us when we struggle with disappointment due to as-yet-unrealized promises of God.

Points to Consider:

- The goal of this series is to discover God’s redemptive plan as we search for the “good news” in the Old Testament, before the coming of the Christ.
- God’s promises to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 depend on him having children, and yet Abram and Sarai have still not been able to have children by Genesis 15— ten years later. So, when God proclaims His faithfulness to Abram in 15:1, Abram has a few questions!
- Where can we see the “good news” before Christ in this passage?
 - i. 15:1: Some commentators speculate that “the word of the LORD” might refer to a preincarnate manifestation of the Son of God. ← Jesus is called the “Word” (e.g., John 1:1).
 - ii. 15:6: God accounts Abram as righteous (i.e., “justifies”) as a result of Abram’s trust in God’s faithfulness— and not due to actual blamelessness on Abram’s part. (See this verse quoted in the New Testament at Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; and James 2:23.)
 - iii. 15:18: The LORD establishes a covenant with Abram, in which the LORD declares that He will suffer the consequences if the covenant is broken. Meanwhile, Abram is asleep, which seems to reflect Abram’s passive role in the guarantee of the covenant. ← The LORD, represented by the fire and smoke, passes through the sacrificed animals in a ceremonial act, implying that He will become like these animals if the covenant is not upheld.
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
 - i. **God is a restorer.** God’s interactions with Abram were a part of His much larger mission to restore humanity from sin and its consequences.
 - ii. **God is faithful.** It was, in part, Abram’s experience of God’s past faithfulness that enabled him to trust God in the present and with the future. → Whenever we struggle with disappointment, we can reflect on God’s past faithfulness to continue to trust Him.
 - iii. **God is a promise maker and a promise keeper.** As hindsight is 20/20, we can see that the LORD *did* keep His promises to Abram, beyond what Abram could have imagined!

Discussion Prompts:

- How can you see the “good news” before Christ in this passage?
- Can you share about an experience where, like Abram, you struggled with profound disappointment?
- How does Abram exemplify what it means to trust in God— despite his circumstances?
- How might it look for you to emulate Abram?