

Part 6 – God’s Consecrated Covenant

God's Covenant with Abram

Genesis 15:1 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.

13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.

17 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.

- This is maybe my favorite chapter in Genesis so far.
- Abram has believed and followed God in so much.
- He has made mistakes but has always repented and went back to following his God.
- He has met God in the flesh!
- He has given God tithes!
- He has renounced worldly treasures.
- Abram has settled that **God is the Way**.
- Then, he has a vision from God.
 - God says, “fear not, Abram: for I Am thy Shield, and thy Exceeding Great Reward...
 - God had become the desire of Abram's heart the pursuit of his life...
 - and God granted him the desire of his heart.
 - Then Abram tells God another deep desire...a son.
 - God had told him before that the earth would be blessed by Abram's seed, yet they had no child...yet.
 - God then shows Abram the stars and says, “your seed will be in number as the stars in the sky”.

- Then what happens in verse 6 is amazing!
- Abram believed God that God would give him a son, and God counted Abram Righteous...
 - I believe that this is when Abram is fully accepting of the Sanctification that God's Grace gives
- Abram is told by God exactly what to sacrifice.
- Abram laid out the sacrifice...
- Abram didn't allow anything to take the sacrifice.
- Then in another vision, Abram was told that even though God had promised these things, there were dark times ahead,
- Abram would know peace with God...then,
- **God sent His Spirit...the final piece of the Godhead,** and the Holy Ghost walked through the sacrifice that Abram set out and sealed their covenant!
 - **This is beyond important to understand**
 - God was making a promise to Abram
 - When a sacrifice was cut in half and placed "in Order" the reason was culturally significant
 - When two parties were making a covenant, they would each bring a sacrifice and cut them in half and spread the parts in order
 - Then both parties would pass through the middle of the carcasses

- This signified that if either party were in breach of the covenant then their life would be required to make things right
- Abram brought the sacrifice and did what God commanded him to do
- Then, ONLY God passed through the sacrifices
- God was willing to offer His life if the covenant was ever broken...
- Did you get that?
- Abram didn't go through...only God did
- When man is in breach of the covenant, Who's life is the sacrifice?
- Hebrews speaks of this in chapter 10
- **Hebrews 10:15** *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

18 Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin.
- We, HIS Children, sin

- When we sin, the sacrifice has already been promised and given in Christ
- When we desire to have our fellowship with Christ restored, we have our instructions!
- **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*
2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

▪ **Are you following!?**

- To restore our fellowship, we lay our lives in order and pray for God to cleanse us from all unrighteousness...we are the sacrifice
- Then, God, who gave His life through Christ, sends His Holy Spirit to consecrate us
- Through the Word and the Spirit He passes through our life
- He reminds He already paid for the breaking of the covenant
- He integrates Himself into our life to consume what is wretched and resurrect that which is Holy

- This is to help us know that He will keep us from sin if we simply walk IN Christ

- **As we have gone through the Life of Abram**

- We have seen him hear the Word and allow faith to move him
 - **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - **James 2:22** Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
- We have watched as he allows fear move him rather than faith
 - When we come to Christ, it is very easy to allow that first famine move us to go to what is familiar
 - We don't like the unknown
 - We love what we know
 - We give ourselves to what we love

- **1John 2:15** Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

- We have witnessed Abram returning to what is right
 - He became wealthy
 - But there was strife
 - Abram chose peace and to allow God to bless him
- **Philippians 4:10** But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

- We have watched as God used Abram to rescue the perishing
 - **2 Timothy 2:24** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,
25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
26 And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.
- We have witnessed God's restoration of fellowship when our faith produces a sacrificed life
 - **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

- **How do we apply these things we have learned so far from Abram?**

- We hear God's Word, this gives faith
- Faith then moves us to go to God, trusting He alone is the Way
- God promises to be our way and life
- Faith then moves us to walk in that way and life
- I see salvation and sanctification in Faith that has produced follow
- Then, when we have offered ourselves as a living sacrifice
- the Holy Spirit passes through...baptizes us...and seals us
- This produces the abundant life promised in God's Word