

A Promised Inheritance

Genesis 15: 7-21

There can be no doubt that Abraham was a man of extraordinary faith. He had left the home of his youth, committed to follow God unto a land that He had promised. At seventy five years of age, Abraham set out on a journey with the Lord to an unknown destination, with the promise of a son and descendants that outnumber the stars. Clearly this was a journey of faith.

Faith is something we often speak of, and yet walking by faith is challenging. The Bible defines faith in [Hebrews 11:1](#) – *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*. We all must learn to walk by faith instead of sight. Apart from faith we cannot please God or follow His divine plan for our lives. As we walk with the Lord by faith, our faith in Him grows and matures. Like Abraham, there will be seasons when we don't understand, but even then we must continue by faith.

At this point Abraham had followed the Lord for some time. He held onto the promise of a son and an inheritance, but as of yet he had not received either. As Abraham walked and communed with God, the Lord sought to settle his fears and affirm his faith. I want to discuss the [details](#) of this encounter and the impact it had on Abraham. God will always provide what we need to continue in the faith if we remain committed to Him. I want to preach on the thought: [A Promised Inheritance](#). First we notice:

I. A Comforting Reminder (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](#). As Abraham faithfully continued to follow the Lord, God offered a comforting and gracious reminder to encourage him. In this we see:

A. God's Person – [And he said unto him, I am the LORD](#). He reminded Abraham that He was the LORD. We have discussed this on previous occasions but it bears repeating. This is the name, Jehovah, the I AM. He is the self-existent one. This is God's personal name and refers to His redemptive nature. Abraham had nothing to fear as long as the LORD was near, providing for him.

B. God's Provision – [And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees](#). After reminding Abraham of His divine nature, God reminded him that he had been called out from the land of Ur of the Chaldees. In His sovereignty, God chose to deliver Abraham from a life of sin and idolatry, revealing Himself unto him and delivering him from a life of despair apart from the Lord.

- Aren't you glad for God's provision in your life? We were just like Abraham, dwelling in a land of sin and idolatry with no awareness or desire for the Lord. In His mercy and grace He came to us, providing pardon for our sin and delivered us from the bondage and condemnation of sin! I had no hope, and yet Jesus came to provide eternal hope.

C. God's Purpose (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.* God had not brought Abraham out of Ur without purpose or to wander aimlessly in a wilderness land. God brought him out with a plan to provide a nation through Abraham. He promised a land of abundant blessing that would nourish and sustain Israel. We must remember that God planned to send His only begotten Son as the atonement for our sin. He used Abraham to provide the nation through which Christ would come.

- I am truly thankful God purposed my salvation and has a plan for my life. He did not save me to perish in the wilderness. He saved me to live abundantly in Him, bringing glory to His great name through obedient service. What a privilege to be included in the divine purposes of God!

II. A Compelling Request (8-11) – Following this great reminder, God had a specific request for Abraham. Notice:

A. The Concern (8) – *And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?* After the promise of an inheritance, Abraham desired further proof. He had faithfully followed the Lord and as of yet had not inherited the land. Abraham questioned God about how he would know for sure he would inherit the land.

- Some argue that Abraham wasn't doubtful, just curious. I tend to agree. This doesn't appear to be a question of doubt so much as it is a desire for assurance. We have the Word of God and its innumerable promises and yet sometimes we desire assurance. We know God will never fail, but at times we want to see something tangible to aid our faith.

B. The Command (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.* Following the question of Abraham, God instructed him to prepare an offering. Clearly this would be set aside to worship the Lord, but likely Abraham had no idea what all God had in mind. Following his obedience in worship, God would confirm His promise to Abraham. This was done to acknowledge the bond of a man's word and commitment. God expected Abraham to remain faithful, and He would provide assurance of His continued faithfulness as well.

- This is quite challenging when we consider it. I would never encourage anyone to attempt worship without an awareness of the holiness of God. He is worthy of our worship. However, I wonder how often we consider our commitment and obligation to Him as we worship. If we fail to submit ourselves unto the Lord, then we have only engaged in the pretense of worship. Genuine worship recognizes our obligations to service and submits unto the Lord. Do you remember Isaiah's response when he encountered the Lord? [Here am I, send me!](#)

C. The Commitment (10-11) – [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.](#) Abraham honored God in obedience to His command. He did exactly as the Lord commanded and even guarded the sacrifice from scavengers. This was an offering unto the Lord and Abraham was committed to honor Him at all cost.

- The birds picture the enemy seeking to hinder our worship and defeat us spiritually. He will do all he can to prevent our obedience unto the Lord. Like Abraham we must remain vigilant against the enemy and determine to honor the Lord with our lives.

III. A Convincing Revelation (12-21) – Following the sacrificial offering, God appeared to Abraham, revealing things to come in his future. Consider:

A. The Dream (12) – [And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.](#) Abraham faithfully guarded the sacrifices, but as the sun was going down he fell into a deep sleep. As he slept, a heaviness of horror fell upon him. God would use this awareness, even though Abraham was asleep, to reveal great truth.

- Although this was not enjoyable, it would prove beneficial for Abraham. There are times of difficulty and darkness in our lives as well. We must never squander an opportunity to hear from the Lord. He is sovereign in our lives and in control of what we face. Even in the dark times, we must continue to seek and trust the Lord. He may be using this period of testing to reveal truth to us and mature our faith.

B. The Despair (13-14) – [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.](#) God revealed to Abraham the coming bondage of Israel in Egypt. While Abraham would not live to see it, in the life of His great-grandson Joseph, God would allow Israel to go into Egypt; but He

would preserve them while they were there, eventually judging Egypt and bringing Israel out with His mighty, strong hand.

- God gave Abraham detailed insight to the future of Israel. At times He provides details for us and at other times we must walk entirely by faith. Whatever the situation, we must continue to trust the Lord, knowing we are secure in His hand.

C. The Deliverance (15-16) – *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.* Abraham was promised a long and peaceful life. He would be spared the bondage of Israel, and God would deliver them in their fourth generation. What God promised would be preserved. (He also referred to the iniquity of the Amorites not being yet fulfilled in Canaan. God would allow an extended season for them to repent and turn unto Him.)

- Our lives face continual change. At times we enjoy the abundance of Canaan, and at others we endure the struggles of Egypt. Whether we are on the mountain or in the valley, God is good and His purpose for our lives will be continued. (Like this season of grace for the Amorites, we now enjoy the day of grace. Humanity is called unto repentance and faith in Christ. When this time ends, God will judge the rebellious.)

D. The Devotion (17-21) – God honored the sacrifice of Abraham with His presence. He walked among them, receiving them from Abraham. Most agree the furnace and lamp picture the divine characteristics of God. The furnace speaks of judgment and the lamp speaks of light. God is gracious and merciful, but He is also holy and righteous. Grace offers salvation and restoration, but when rejected, judgment is all that remains.

- God alone sanctified this covenant. He alone walked through the offering. His word would stand regardless of Israel's behavior or commitment. The same is true today, being confirmed again and again in the New Testament. God provided the means of salvation through the sacrifice of His Son. His covenant with us in salvation is not dependent upon our works or merit. We rest in the finished work of Christ alone. The saved are preserved in Christ and He will one day judge all who rejected His atoning grace.

Conclusion: Has God spoken to you today? Do you have questions without answers? Does it feel as if your faith is weak and you have trouble trusting the Lord? Have you responded to His gracious offer of salvation? If there are needs, bring them to Jesus. He is faithful.