

### **"So Shall Your Offspring Be."**

(Text: Genesis 15: 1-6)

**Context:** God called Abram out from his own people in Ur of the Chaldees to travel to a land that God would give to him. This would be a danger-filled trek. Similarly, the inner trek of faith within Abram was danger-filled as it encountered fear and doubt. Abram had heard God's promises, but was finding it difficult to believe them as he lived each day without God's specific promise of an heir being fulfilled. This relationship between Abram and the LORD is so very important for you and me to observe, ponder, and learn from. Like He did for Abram, God will come to us, promise blessing to us, and grow faith in us.

#### **I. Abram Doubted God's Promise To Give Him An Heir.**

- A. As time marched on and the promise was not being fulfilled, Abram feared it was too late for God to keep His promise.
  - 1. "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir," uttered (an whined) Abram as he spoke to God.
  - 2. As it is, right now, ..."the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus." ('Is that the best that You can do, Lord?' Abram seemed to have been thinking.)
- B. Frustration over not seeing how God was going to fulfill His promise to Abram was leading Abram to doubt God. He truly needed this encounter with God. He needed God's input into his thinking and feeling.
  - 1. Are you uncertain of how God will keep His promises to you?
  - 2. Are you in need of God's input into your thinking and feeling?

#### **II. The LORD Came To Abram In A Vision, Saying... (God Came & God Said.)**

- A. I am a shield to you...
  - 1. The LORD had just protected Abram in Egypt, even when Abram feared for his life and lied to save his own skin by saying that his wife, Sarah who was beautiful, was his sister.
  - 2. The LORD had protected Abram as he had rescued his nephew Lot from evil men who had taken Lot captive (14:14).
- B. I am your very great reward...

- 1. The LORD said to Abram, "This man (Eliezer of Damascus) will not be your heir; but one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir" (15:4). – Your reward shall be great!
- 2. The LORD took Abram outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them....So shall your descendants be" (15:5). – Your reward shall be great!
- C. After the LORD came to him & after the LORD spoke to Abram, Abram believed the LORD.
  - 1. The LORD reckoned it to Abram as righteousness.
    - a. Abram was not righteous in his own right.
    - b. God gave faith to Abram and through the faith that God created in Abram did God reckon as righteousness to Abram.
    - c. God broke down the walls of fear and doubt in Abram.
- D. God is busy, even now, breaking down the walls of fear and doubt that bombard us daily.
  - 1. He gave Jesus to mankind as the Lamb upon which to place the penalty for human sin. – And Jesus finished the job! Jesus died and rose for our deliverance.
  - 2. The deliverance from sin, death, and the devil is still proclaimed and heard by human ears and hearts in 2010 in the south Portland area and even in Oregon City!
- E. God uses us, who by God's grace believe, to broadcast in, word and deed, how God still protects and rewards today!
  - 1. He grants forgiveness to sin-burdened souls and peace to worried hearts.
  - 2. He gives hope to people who have only known trouble and pessimism.
  - 3. He dares to enlist and use us in this rescuing effort!
  - 4. All glory be to the God of Abram who is our protection and very great reward!