

# Abraham's Vision and a Promise Made

## *Genesis 15:1-21*

- I. ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD (Genesis 15:1-6)
  - A. God's Appearance to Abram (Genesis 15:1)
    - 1. The manner of His appearance – *"in a vision"*
    - 2. The message in His appearance – *"Fear not, Abram"*
      - a. A healthful fear
        - (1) Joseph feared God (Genesis 42:18)
        - (2) God fearing men are men of truth (Exodus 18:21)
        - (3) It goes well for those that fear God (Ecclesiastes 8:12)
        - (4) Fearing God is a duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
        - (5) Even the wicked understand that fearing God is good (Luke 23:40)
        - (6) The God fearing will listen to right instruction (Acts 13:16)
        - (7) Godly fear (Hebrews 12:28)
        - (8) The devils fear and tremble at God (James 2:19)
        - (9) A call to fear God at the end times (Revelation 14:7)
      - b. An unhealthful fear
        - (1) The spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)
        - (2) No fear in love (1 John 4:18)
        - (3) Fear of man (Proverbs 29:25)
          - (a) Abraham and his fear of man in Egypt (Genesis 12:11-13)
          - (b) Abraham and his fear of man in the land (Genesis 20:2, 11)
          - (c) Aaron and his fear of the people (Exodus 32:22-24)
          - (d) Saul and his fear of the people (1 Samuel 15:24)
          - (e) Elijah and his fear of Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1-4, 9, 12-18)
          - (f) Fear of man (Matthew 10:28)
          - (g) Peter's fear of man (Matthew 26:69-74)
          - (h) Nicodemus came by night (John 3:1-2; John 12:42)
          - (i) The parents of the blind man (John 9:22)
          - (j) Pilate and his fear of the people (John 19:12-13)
          - (k) Peter's fear of those from Jerusalem (Galatians 2:11-13)
          - (l) Those with Paul forsook him (2 Timothy 4:16-17)

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3. The motivation of His appearance
  - a. *"I am thy shield."*
    - (1) Abram could rightly feel vulnerable living out in the open like he did. What could shield him from attack? Yet, he rested in the protection from God.
    - (2) It was God that had protected him up to this point.
    - (3) It was God that would do so in the future.
    - (4) It was God that had given him the victory against the kings of the east (Genesis 14:20).
    - (5) The Psalmist's testimony
      - (a) A shield and glory (Psalm 3:3; 84:9, 11).
      - (b) Blessing the righteous (Psalm 5:12).
      - (c) As a rock, fortress, and deliverer (Psalm 18:2).
      - (d) A hiding place (Psalm 119:114).
  - b. I am *"thy exceeding great reward."*
    - (1) Remember, Abram had given up much in refusing the offer from the king of Sodom. So, what was Abram's reward? God gives the answer to this question. It was God himself.
    - (2) For Abraham and his seed (Deuteronomy 33:26-29).
    - (3) For King David (Psalm 16:5-6).
    - (4) For the righteous (Psalm 58:11; Hebrews 13:5-6).
    - (5) For the New Testament believer (Galatians 4:5-7; Colossians 3:24; Hebrews 11:6).
- B. Abram's Reminder of God's Promised Seed (Genesis 15:2-3; Genesis 12:7)
  1. Abram was without a child (Genesis 15:2).
    - a. Abram began to question the promise that God had made.
    - b. Many times, saints will begin to question God's timing when He doesn't move as fast as they believe He should.
    - c. Yet, we should remember that God's timing and work is not on our timeline (Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 55:8), and His works are wonderful (Psalm 40:5; Hosea 14:9).
  2. Abram's current heir was a servant born in his house (Genesis 15:3).
    - a. The steward of his house.
    - b. Eliezer of Damascus.
- C. God's Renewed Promise (Genesis 15:4-5)
  1. Of a son (Genesis 15:4)
  2. Of a seed like the stars of heaven (Genesis 15:5)
    - a. To tell them,
    - b. If thou be able to number them.
      - (1) *"Tell"*, defined – Old English tellan "to reckon, calculate, number, compute; consider, think, esteem, account" – etymonline.com

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- (2) Note: Up till recently a customer service rep. at a bank or credit union was called a *teller*. That is, they would count out the money deposited or withdrawn.
- (3) Note also: in the context itself, the Bible lets us know the definition, the word *number* shows up (see Genesis 15:5).

### D. Abram Believed in the Lord (Genesis 15:6)

1. He believed in the promise of the Lord.
2. Abram received an imputed righteousness from the Lord because of his faith (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:22).
  - a. To impute something is defined as the following... early 15c., from Old French *imputer*, *emputer* (14c.) and directly from Latin *imputare* "to reckon, make account of, charge, ascribe," – [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com)
  - b. Notice verse 6 of Genesis... "*and he (the Lord) counted it to him (Abram) for righteousness.*"
  - c. The Apostle Paul refers to this verse several times in Romans chapter 4.
    - (1) The imputation given (Romans 4:4-6).
    - (2) Abraham received this imputation before circumcision (Romans 4:9-10).
    - (3) Abraham had faith in what God told him was accounted to him for righteousness (Romans 4:15-22).
    - (4) Abraham's faith compared to the New Testament believer's faith (Romans 4:23-25).
  - d. The Apostle Paul again refers to Abraham and his faith in the book of Galatians. Comparing the faith of Abraham to that of the New Testament believer.
    - (1) Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Galatians 3:6).
    - (2) Those that are of faith are the children of Abraham (Galatians 3:7).
    - (3) The word of God foreseeing that God would justify the heathen by faith, preached to Abraham that "in thee shall all nations be blessed (Galatians 3:8).
    - (4) Those that be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham (Galatians 3:9).
    - (5) Note: Paul is dealing with the believers at Galatia over those that have come in and told them that they still needed to keep the law (See Galatians 1:6-7; Galatians 2; Galatians 3:1-6).
  - e. All those saved during this age are the spiritual children of Abraham (Galatians 3:7, 29).