

GENESIS 15:1-6 *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." [2] But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" [3] Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" [4] And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." [5] Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." [6] And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

Notice the first use of four phrases in this Scripture:

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision,

- "the word of the LORD came" – used 102 times in the Bible!
- The recurring phrase emphasizes the God-breathed character of the Bible.
- 1Pe 1:10-12 *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, [11] searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. [12] To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.*
- How often does "the word of the Lord" come to you? Everyday?

saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram.

- "do not be afraid" or "do not fear"– used 50 and 51 times, respectively, in the Bible!
- Often this is God's word to man, throughout this book – to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Ruth, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Elijah, Paul and many others.....
- When you are afraid, do you stand on the promises of God? What is/are your favorite promise/s? Is. 41:10

I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

- **"I am your shield"**– Used in many wonderful variations, this thought is repeated frequently.
- **"God is our refuge and our strength"; "God is a tower of refuge"; "God is an overshadowing rock"; "blessed is he that hides under the shadow of the Almighty".**
- This is the first intimation of this character of God in Scripture.
- **Have you, have I, learned yet to count on the invisible protection of God?**

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- **"he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness"** – used 5 times in the Bible! – **Romans 4:3, 22; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23**
- The foundation of Christianity's "righteousness through faith"- of the need of man- to believe!!!
- The fires of the Reformation were lit from that ringing phrase!
- In the NT, believe and faith are the same Greek word- "*pisteuo*".
- **John 3:16 - "...that whoever believes should not perish, but have eternal life.....";**
- **Romans 10:9-10 - "...and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead..." "...for with the heart one believes unto righteousness...";**
- **1 John 5:13 - "...who believe in the name of the Son of God....that you may continue to believe....."**
- **How strong is your faith, my faith in Jesus Christ?**
- **Do you, do I truly believe?**
- **Are you, am I sure the LORD is accounting your faith, your belief in Him "for righteousness"? !!!!**
- **Let's pray for those who do not yet believe!**