

GENESIS 15:1-6 GOD'S FOURTH DIALOGUE WITH ABRAM!

7/15/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

I BELIEVE IN JESUS – Keith Matten

*I believe in Jesus I believe He is the Son of God I believe He died and rose again I believe He paid for us all
I believe He's here now Standing in our midst Here with the power to heal now And the grace to forgive*

*I believe in You, Lord I believe You are the Son of God I believe You died and rose again I believe You paid for us all
And I believe You're here now (I believe that You're here) Standing in our midst Here With the power to heal now (With
the power to heal) And the grace to forgive*

*I believe in You, Lord I believe You are the Son of God I believe You died and rose again I believe You paid for us all
And I believe You're here now (I believe that You're here) Standing in our midst Here With the power to heal now (With
the power to heal) And the grace to forgive. I believe You're here now Standing in our midst Here With the power to heal
now And the grace to forgive!*

Biblical Background:

In the previous chapter 14, we had the story of the four kings, Chedorlaomer, King of Elam, and kings Amraphel, Arioch and Tidal defeat the five kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and the kings of Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar. In their victory the four kings took all the spoil of Sodom and Gomorrah, including Lot and his goods. Upon hearing of the news, Abram took 318 of his armed servants and went after Lot and was victorious over a much larger force. On his way back after the victory, Abram was met and blessed by Melchizedek, king of Salem. Abram gave a tithe of all to Melchizedek. The king of Sodom met Abram and said to give him the persons and for Abram to take the goods for himself. Abram refused to take the gift, lest the king would say that he had made Abram rich. **Next we have this fourth dialogue of Abram with God.**

GENESIS 15:1-6 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision,

Notice the first use of four phrases in this Scripture:

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

1 - "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.*

2 - saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram.

- **"do not be afraid" or "do not fear" – used 48 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

3 - 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 we learned to **count on the invisible protection of God?**
- **Your exceedingly great reward - the person who possesses the Lord possesses the resources that can never fade or be diminished.**

[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!"

- Yes, Lord GOD, but what good is your exceedingly great reward? **I don't have any heir to pass it on** to. I've got more than I can ever spend, but, I'm childless. I have no one to leave it to. The heir is my servant, Eliezer of Damascus, who has been born in my house.
- If we **continue fervently in prayer**, praying with a **humble submission to His divine will**, we shall **not seek in vain**.

[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

4 - he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

- This is one of the **clearest** expressions in the Bible of the truth of **salvation by grace, through faith**.
- This verse/phrase is 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...."
- Those who would **have the comfort of the promises** must **mix faith with the promises**. See how the apostle magnifies this faith of Abram, and makes it a standing example, Rom 4:19-22 *And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. [20] He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, [21] and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. [22] And therefore "IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."*
- Abraham **by faith believed this promise of God that His seed would come**. We read in Romans concerning Jesus who was of the seed of Abraham. That is important, because He was the promised Seed, the One that Abraham believed in and the One **because of Abraham believing in Him, God declared him righteous**.
- **God declares us righteous by the same action of believing in the same One!**

SUMMARY – GOD PROMISES TO ABRAM:

- How often does "the word of the Lord" come to you? Everyday?
- When you are afraid, do you stand on the promises of God? What is/are your favorite promise/s? Is. 41:10.
- Are you mixing faith with the promises?
- Have we learned to count on the invisible protection of God?
- How strong is our faith in Jesus Christ? Do we truly believe?
- God declares us righteous by the same action of believing in the same One!
- Let's pray for those who do not yet believe!

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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