

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

JUNE 8, 2022

GENESIS 15:7-21

INTRODUCTION:

1. When God made the promise to Abram, He did not specify how those promises would be fulfilled leaving Abram to ask, “*Lord, God, what will you give me...*” (Gen. 15.2)
 - a) Over time, God provided additional details. (Gen. 15.4; 17.19)
 - b) **GENESIS 15.6:** “*And he believed in the Lord*”
2. Consider the magnitude Abram’s trust and what was involved in his faith.
 - a) BELIEVED: “a firm, inward, personal, self-surrendering reliance upon a personal being, especially upon the source of all being” [K&D] (cf. Deut. 9.23; Heb. 3.18,19)
 - b) Abram had unconditional faith even when circumstances provided no expectations.
 - c) God viewed Abram as a righteous man because of his faith. (Gen. 15.6)
3. For the second time, Abram asked God for reassurance of the promise. (Gen. 15.7ff)

I. THE QUESTION

- A. **GENESIS 15.8:** “*And he said, ‘Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’*”
 1. The question was asked in reference to the land promise. (Gen. 15.9; 12.7; 13.14,15)
 2. Not a lapse of faith, but a request for confirmation.
 - a) Sarah expressed a lack of faith. (Gen. 18.11-15; in contrast with Gen. 17.17-20)
 - b) Zacharias expressed a lack of faith. (Luke 1.18-20; in contrast with Luke 1.34,35)
- B. God has never expected us to believe at face value but has always provided proof to give reassurance of His promises. (Heb. 6.13-18)
 1. God provided proof of His existence. (Acts 14.17; Rom. 1.20; Ps. 19.1-4)
 2. God provided proof of His Son. (Matt. 16.15,16; 17.5; John 10.36-38)
 3. Our faith is based on the “*evidence of things not seen*” (Heb. 11.1)
- C. We have every right to require proof. (1 Thess. 5.21; 1 John 4.1)

II. THE ANSWER

- A. God instructs Abram to bring him a sacrifice.
 1. **GENESIS 15.9:** “*Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.*” (Num. 1.14; 7.16,17; 19.2)
 2. **GENESIS 15.10:** “*cut them in two, down the middle*” Chaldean custom. (cf. Gen. 15.7)
- B. Abram has a dream induced by God.
 1. **GENESIS 15.12:** “*Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram*”
 - a) This was a deep sleep that was induced by God. (cf. Gen. 2.21)
 - b) **GENESIS 15.12:** “*horror and great darkness fell upon him.*” Indicating the ominous and foreboding future. (Job 4.13,14)
 2. **GENESIS 15.12-16:** The future of Abram’s descendants.
 - a) **GENESIS 15.13:** They will live as strangers. (Ex. 2.21,22; cf. Gen. 41.46; 50.26)
 - b) **GENESIS 15.13:** They will live as slaves. (Ex. 2.23-25; 12.40,41)
 - c) **GENESIS 15.14:** They will be delivered. (Ex. 6.6; Gen. 15.16)
 - d) **GENESIS 15.14:** They will be given great possessions. (Deut. 6.10-12)
 3. **GENESIS 15.15:** The death of Abram.
- C. God establishes a covenant with Abram.
 1. **GENESIS 15.17:** “*passed between those pieces.*” (Jer. 34.18,19)
 2. **GENESIS 15.18-21:** “*The Lord made a covenant with Abram*”
 - a) Covenant: From the root word meaning, “to cut.”
 - b) It would be an everlasting covenant. (Gen. 17.7,8)
 - c) Circumcision was a sign of the covenant. (Gen. 17.10,11)