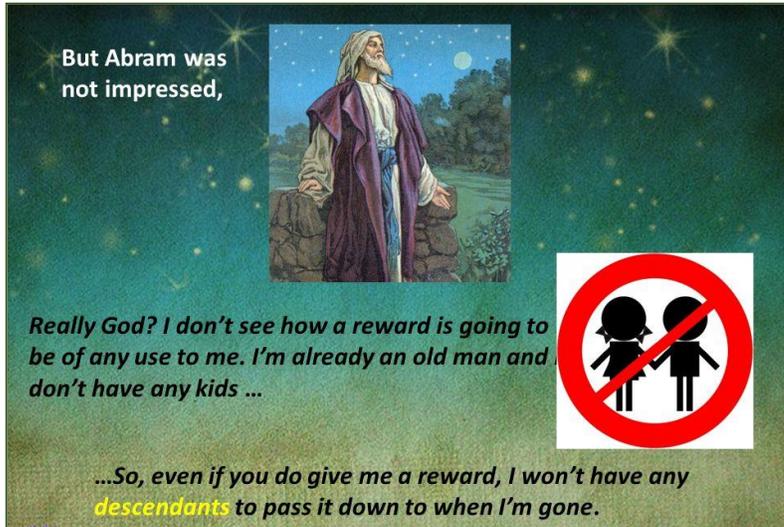


FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – COVENANT WITH GOD
UNIT II – CALLED INTO COVENANT WITH GOD

“GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAM AND HIS FUTURE HEIRS/DESCENDANTS FOR THE PROMISED LAND!”



Sunday School Lesson V – October 1, 2017
Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III
Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Genesis 15:1-21

Required Reading: Genesis Chapters 12 – 15

Motto Text: Genesis 15:18, *“In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”*

Reliable Resources: Logos Bible Software; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Standard Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Genesis by D. G. Barnhouse; H. L. Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible

INTRODUCTION

We now move from the First Days which covered the creation of the world, mankind, and the exposure of the knowledge of good and evil because of Adam and Eve’s sin. We also have seen the proliferation of sins which led to the physical destruction of the world by flood and the survival of eight persons who found grace in God’s eyes. God, after forming the Noahic covenant with all the creation in Genesis 9, scattered the newly populated masses, who sought to circumvent His orders to spread around the globe. According to Genesis 11, they were scattered through the confusion of their languages.

Now we continue to examine the patriarchal stage and the development of the first nation recognized to do God’s will and bring forth His Messiah. With the outstanding help of H. L. Wilmington’s “Guide to the Bible” and the writings of D. G. Barnhouse, we highlight some of the formidable events concerning Abraham, the father of the nation God would raise to represent Him.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Comfort of God. Genesis 15:1**
- **Concerns of Abraham. Genesis 15:2-4**
- **Confidence of God. Genesis 15:5-7**
- **Contractual Ratification of God. Genesis 15:8-11**
- **Covenant Confidence Recapitulated. Genesis 15:12-21**

LESSON EXPOSITION

I. Comfort of God. Genesis 15:1

Abram, who later will be called Abraham, is given God’s greatest words of comfort. *“Fear not...I am thy shield...thy exceeding great reward.”* All in this verse comes from the mouth of God and speaks comfort. But why? According to Wilmington, Abraham is about the second most important or greatest man who ever lived. His story is summed up in Genesis 12 – 24. (This is also the first time the phrase, *“The word of the Lord came”* is mentioned in the Scripture (Barnhouse)).

- A.) **“His Conversion (Acts 7:2)”**
- B.) **“His Calling (Gen. 11:31; 12:1)”**
- C.) **“His Commission (Gen. 12:2-3; Acts 7:3)**
- D.) **“His Caution (11:31-32)”**
- E.) **“His Canaan (12:4-9)”**
- F.) **“His Carnality (12:10-20)”**
- G.) **“His Condescension (13:1-18)”**

H.) “His Courage (14:1-16)”

I.) “His Communion (14:17-24)”

J.) “His Covenant (15:1-24)...”

Though Abraham’s life had been sketchy scenes thus far and yet the courageous patriarch was encouraged by the Lord to be at comfort and “*fear not.*” (First use of this phrase, and is said to appear over 300 times in the Bible. Some say at least 365 times, or one for every day. With God, once is enough!)

II. Concerns of Abraham. Genesis 15:2-4

After the battle with the pagan kings for the freedom of Abram’s nephew Lot and his family, he asked God who would be the heir of his household. His wife was childless, so Eliezer, a Damascus slave born in his house would have become heir to everything! But God had another plan!

III. Confidence of God. Genesis 15:5-7

A. God points Abram to the stars to reinforce his confidence. “*So shall thy seed be.*” vs. 5

B. God’s breath of confidence breathed the life of faith in Abraham, and the wonderful assurance of verse 6, “*And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*” Only when one exercises faith and trust in God and His Word can they receive His blessed assurance. Note here:

1. Faith in God. Hebrews 11:6

2. “*Counted it to him for righteousness.*” Romans 8:1. This is the final mention of “justification” being “imputed” (reckoned or credited to a person’s account).

3. Righteousness here means to be rightly clothed, because if God doesn’t clothe us with His righteousness one is “buck naked.” Hebrews 4:13 tells us, “*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*” God in verse 7 assures Abram that He called him out of his pagan land to give him and his heritage a land of promise. Beloved, God’s promises are never empty but will be accomplished. Abraham had been concerned, but God said it will come to past.

IV. Contractual Ratification. Genesis 15:8-11

Note verses 8-11 as Abraham had God’s covenant announced, 12:1-4; and confirmed, 13:14-17. And now he sought the ratification of this covenant for the Promised Land (15:1-7). So God prepared for the ratification (vss. 9-11). The Lord’s requirements for the slaying and dividing of the three-year-old animals, but not the slicing of the birds (Gen. 1:17). H. L. Wilmington states: To ratify a contract in Abram’s time, “Two parties would slaughter some animals, carve them up, and arrange the pieces in two lines. Then both parties would join hands and solemnly walk together down the middle path. By doing so they would pledge in the presence of blood and suffering and death, their intention to keep the terms of the contract.”

Note: According to Barnhouse, each animal was to reach the age of maturity and have no blemishes.

V. Covenant Confidence Recapitulated. Genesis 15:12-21

A. Verses 12 and 17 shows us that God put Abram to sleep and He alone passed through the middle of the contractual line as a burning light and fire! This demonstrates that the covenant for the land of promise was unconditional on God’s part. What a mighty God!

B. The Lord utters a sevenfold prophecy to Abram in verses 13-16, which has been fulfilled: “*And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*”

C. Everything God promised he ratified it and all the land to this day. In spite of man-made modern treaties, they are null and void because “God said it and that settles it!”

CLOSING

Barnhouse writes: “The covenants of God are not agreements between two parties; the promises of God begin and end with Himself. They are unilateral agreements, divinely and blessedly one-sided. God promises; God blesses, God gives, God guarantees, God assures, and since He desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose (Heb. 6:17, RSV), He confirms it by oath.”



Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179

Phone: (504) 486-7876

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

October 8, 2017

Exodus 19:16-25

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

Pastor Davis invites you to hear him teach the Sunday School lesson at Bibleway each Wednesday at noon.