

The Gospel in the Old Testament

**The Gospel Preached to Abraham
Lesson 4
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-21; Galatians 3:8**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 23, 2019*

The Gospel Preached to Abraham

- ▶ The Gospel:
 - Good news of the salvation of God through Jesus Christ
 - The power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16)
 - The duty and privilege of the believer to proclaim
- ▶ Salvation:
 - The work of God in the individual to bring them eternal life (Philippians 1:6)
 - New Birth - Faith - Justification - Sanctification - Resurrection - Glorification
- ▶ The Message of the Gospel
 - Sin and the wrath of God (Genesis 6:5; 8:21)
 - Jesus Christ, the Son of God and only Savior (John 20:30-31)
 - Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31)

The Gospel in the Old Testament

- ▶ The good news for Adam and Eve's children
 - Sin, unbelief, disobedience
 - God exists - omnipotent, omniscient, angry
 - God is good - wrath deferred, protevangelium, clothing from animal skins
 - The Tree of Life remains
 - Call upon the Name of the LORD
- ▶ The good news for Noah's grandchildren
 - Sin – the evil intent of the heart - destined for wrath
 - God exists - omnipotent, omniscient, righteous, angry with the unrighteous
 - God is good - gracious, protevangelium, longsuffering
 - God is the Savior - the ark and the Everlasting Covenant
 - Call upon the Name of the LORD

The Gospel in the Old Testament

- ▶ Five Biblical Covenants

- Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9)
- Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12, 15)
- Covenant with Israel through Moses (Exodus 19, 24)
- Covenant with David (2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17)
- New Covenant (Jeremiah 31)

- ▶ The blood of the Everlasting Covenant (Hebrews 13:20-21)

- ▶ The Mosaic Covenant is temporary and conditional (Galatians 3:17,24)

- ▶ The 4 Divine Covenants are Promises re: salvation (Galatians 3:15-17)

God's Covenant With Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

- ▶ Go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to a land which I will show you.
 - ▶ I will make you a great nation.
 - ▶ I will bless you and make your name great.
- ▶ Be a blessing.
 - ▶ I will bless those who bless you.
 - ▶ I will curse those who curse you.
- ▶ All families of the earth will be blessed in you.

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- ▶ All families of the earth will be blessed in you.
- ▶ To your descendants (literally - seed) I will give this land (12:7)
 - ▶ Plural - descendants (15:5)
 - ▶ Singular - Descendant (3:15; Galatians 3:16)

The Just Shall Live By Faith

Genesis 15

- ▶ Hebrews 11:8-19 – Abraham, a life of faith from his call to his death
- ▶ Genesis 15 shows the life of faith from justification to death
- ▶ Heb 11:1 defines faith: assurance/confidence in things hoped for but unseen
- ▶ Heb 11:2 states that approval with God requires faith
- ▶ Heb 11:6 how saving faith operates: belief that God is and He rewards seekers
- ▶ Ephesians 2:8-10 says that saving faith is a gift from God – by the new birth

Abraham's Faith - Genesis 15:1-6

- ▶ “After these things . . .” (Genesis 12:10-14:24)
- ▶ The word of the LORD came to Abraham (15:1, 4)
 - Faith come by hearing the Word of the LORD (Romans 10:17)
 - Do not fear
 - I am a shield to you
 - Your reward shall be very great
- ▶ Abraham asks about the reward – the promise – the seed
- ▶ The LORD responds with an picture – “Count the stars”

Abraham's Faith - Genesis 15:1-6

- ▶ Abraham believed in the LORD and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- ▶ What did Abraham believe?
- ▶ The Word of God – the Promise for himself as well as the nations
- ▶ What did Abraham receive by faith?
- ▶ The blessing is righteousness (15:6; Psalm 24:5-6)
- ▶ His faith in the Word of God was evidenced by his faith in the ways of God

Abraham's Faith - Genesis 15:7-21

- ▶ The land promise re-affirmed by the LORD (15:7)
- ▶ Abraham asks how he will know this will happen
- ▶ The LORD answers by a strange ritual
- ▶ In context, this is not a “covenant ritual” but an answer to Abraham
- ▶ It is a lesson on the life of faith

Abraham's Faith - Genesis 15:7-21

- ▶ 5 dead animals brought to the LORD – no altar
- ▶ 3 large animals cut in half and laid side by side with the 2 birds
- ▶ Abraham protected the carcasses from the birds of prey
- ▶ Abraham slept in the terror of a great darkness
- ▶ God proclaimed the future of Abraham's descendants in the land
 - Enslaved and oppressed 400 years out of the land
 - Deliverance by judgment with many possessions
- ▶ The death of Abraham
- ▶ Return to the land after the fulness of the sin of the Amorites
- ▶ Darkness
- ▶ The smoking oven and flaming torch passed between the pieces

Abraham's Faith - Genesis 15:7-21

- ▶ A concluding restatement of the great nation part of the Covenant
- ▶ The land described by the current inhabitants – 10 nations
- ▶ This Covenant revealed to be “everlasting” in Genesis 17

The Gospel Preached to Abraham

- ▶ Galatians 3:8 – all nations to be blessed through Abraham
- ▶ The Everlasting Covenant secured by Christ
- ▶ The just shall live by faith