**Lesson 11 Genesis 15**

**God’s Covenant With Abram**

1. A. What do you think came into Abram’s mind when God mentioned “reward” to him in Genesis 15:1?

 B. Who did Abram think would be counted as his “heir”?

2. What two new facts concerning Abram’s seed did God give in Genesis 15:4-5 as compared to the original promise of Genesis 12:7

Genesis 15:4-5

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: No, that one will not be your heir; your own offspring will be your heir.

5 He took him outside and said: Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, he added, will your descendants be.

Genesis 12:7

7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said: To your descendants I will give this land. So Abram built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

3. In adopting a servant heir, is Abram faithless or faithful? Give verse.

4. What did Abram do in this chapter to prove his faith?

5. How can you follow Abram’s example and respond to God’s faithfulness this week? Make one specific plan.

6. One of the key facts the Old Testament stresses about God is that He makes formal, legal covenants with people. What does this tell you about His nature?

7. Why is it important to us that God’s land grant to Abram did not depend on his obeying any laws?

Romans 4:13-17

13 It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith.

14 For if those who adhere to the law are the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

15 For the law produces wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16 For this reason, it depends on faith, so that it may be a gift, and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not to those who only adhere to the law but to those who follow the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us,

17 as it is written, “I have made you father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not exist

8. *Challenge Question:* In Romans 4:1-3 God says Abram was not justified by “works." By contrast, James speaks of proving one’s faith by works. Is this a contradiction? If not, try to explain how both Paul and James use the same phrase to explain their viewpoint. See James 2:17-26 and Galatians 3:6-.

Romans 4:1-3

1What then can we say that Abraham found, our ancestor according to the flesh?

2 Indeed, if Abraham was justified on the basis of his works, he has reason to boast; but this was not so in the sight of God.

3 For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

James 2:17-26

17 So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 Indeed someone might say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

19 You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble.

20 Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works.

23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called “the friend of God.”

24 See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

25 And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different route?

26For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Galatians 3:6

6 Thus Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

9. In verses 9-21, what do you think the cut animals signify? The blazing torch?

9 He answered him: Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

10 He brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up.

11 Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram scared them away.

12 As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a great, dark dread descended upon him.

13\* Then the LORD said to Abram: Know for certain that your descendants will reside as aliens in a land not their own, where they shall be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years.

14 But I will bring judgment on the nation they must serve, and after this they will go out with great wealth.

15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace; you will be buried at a ripe old age.

16 In the fourth generation\* your descendants will return here, for the wickedness of the Amorites is not yet complete.

17 When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces.

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates,

19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

10. By comparing Genesis 15:16 with Revelation 14:18, what principle of God regarding His waiting period before judgment do we see here?

Revelation 14:18

18 Then another angel [came] from the altar,\* [who] was in charge of the fire, and cried out in a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Use your sharp sickle and cut the clusters from the earth’s vines, for its grapes are ripe.”