



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of November 30, 2025

Genesis 15:1-21

[1] *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." [2] But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" [3] And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." [4] And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." [5] And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." [6] And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. [7] And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." [8] But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" [9] He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." [10] And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. [11] And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. [12] As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. [13] Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. [14] But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. [15] As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. [16] And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." [17] When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. [18] On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river 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."*

1. How do you know if someone truly believes in God's promises and what God says about Himself? What evidence do you see in how they live? (i.e how they deal with their finances...how they treat their family, co-workers, strangers and even enemies...how they prioritize their time and energy?)
2. When God exhorts Abraham not to fear and says that his reward will be great, Abraham laments that he has no heir by which God's promises can be fulfilled. What is the difference between complaining and lamenting? Why does God welcome Abraham's lament? Why should we learn to lament?
3. Abram believed the LORD and this belief was counted to him as righteousness. Describe what Abram believed and why his belief was ultimately no different than the belief that saves people today.
4. God promises Abraham that his descendants will be slaves in a foreign land for 400 years, and that they will not return to Canaan until the iniquity of the Amorites is complete. What do you think this means and what does it say about God's judgment of sin as well as His longsuffering and mercy towards sinners? How should this lead us to repentance?
5. In Genesis 15, God formalizes His covenant with Abraham. Describe the significance and meaning of the animals split in two and the smoking fire pot and flaming torch that passed between them. What promise is God making and what is He saying about Himself?
6. God's covenant with Abraham did not prevent his offspring from suffering. Similarly, God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises does not mean Christians will live pain free lives. In the midst of our trials, pain, and suffering, how can believers be 100% sure that God's word is true and that He will be faithful to His promises? Going back to question 1, to whom are the promises of God made?