

Genesis 15:1-6 Sermon Notes

➤ Verse-by-verse notes

- (15:1a)
 - The “after this” refers to chapter 14, where Abram:
 - Had exhibited a muscular faith of great use in the world
 - Had given a tenth to God’s eternal priest
 - Had rejected the wealth of Sodom
 - The “word of the Lord” came to Abram in a vision
 - The first occurrence of the *word of the Lord*
 - What an exciting event for Abram!
- (15:1b)
 - God tells Abram to “fear not”
 - Perhaps after things settled down, Abram began to consider where things stood
 - He had made powerful enemies in Mesopotamia
 - He had made powerful enemies in his own neighborhood
 - He only has a few friends
 - God tells Abram that He is Abram’s shield (sovereign/protector)
 - The first “I AM” statement by God
 - God tells Abram that He is Abram’s great reward, or “will reward him greatly”
 - Abram had declined any reward for what he had done for Lot
- (15:2,3)
 - What Abram wanted most was a child and heir to his estate, but since he was getting old and Sarai was barren, this didn’t seem like something even God could give to him
 - Even though Lot was his nephew, Abram didn’t consider Lot his heir
 - He would only deed his estate to one who followed God’s word
- (15:4,5)
 - The Lord spoke to Abram 3 times:
 - God promised that He would give Abram a son from Abram’s loins
 - God told Abram to attempt to count the stars
 - God promised Abram that his descendants would outnumber the stars
- (15:6)
 - Believing God = believing God’s word!
 - When Abram believed God’s word (promise), God credited (imputed) Abram with being righteous
 - Being “righteous” in the eyes of God should be the number one priority for every person
 - Righteousness = being full of rightness
 - Abram was not the first person to be considered righteous (Abel in **Matthew 23:35; Hebrews 11:4**)
 - He is the one who provided the template for understanding righteousness, and so is the father of all who believe (**Romans 4:11,12**)

➤ Theme notes

○ The Word of God

▪ What it means:

- God's Name defines Who and What He is
- God's Word is how He expresses Who and What He is to others
 - In the beginning was God (**Genesis 1:1a**)
 - In the beginning was the Word of God, Who is God (**John 1:1**)
 - The Word became flesh (Jesus) and dwelt among us (**John 1:14**)
 - Jesus perfectly defines God for us (**Hebrew 1:3**)
 - The Scriptures define Jesus for us (**Luke 24:25-27,44,45**)

▪ How do we know the Bible was the Word of God?

- Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, died, was buried and rose from the grave to eternal life
- The resurrection proves that Jesus is God
- This means that the Creator of the universe lived among us and allowed himself to be crucified upon a Roman cross, which is the most singular event in all of human history
- God would have a very good reason for doing/allowing this
- Since it involves humanity, God would want us to know that reason
- The Bible is the only book that makes sense of (and puts into context), the conception, birth, life, ministry, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
- The Bible is therefore the Word of God

▪ How do we know the Bible is the Word of God?

- The Cross was a tremendous act of love by God
- The Resurrection was an act of omnipotence by God
- A God of love would want every generation to receive the same message of hope and redemption as the generation of the Cross
- A God of omnipotence would watch over His Word to ensure that it was transmitted faithfully over time
- The Bible is therefore still the Word of God!