



God's Covenant

April 17

INTRODUCTION: God will bring salvations to the nations through making one man into a nation. Today's passage is about a covenant (relationship) God establishes with Abram. It is also a famous passage on justification.

REVIEW: The Bible Project, [Genesis](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: covenant, justification, promises, faithfulness

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Gen 14:1–16, Abram Rescues Lot)

- Why did the 4 kings attack?
- What attitude could Abram have had? What did he display?
- Can it be just to defend yourself?
- How does this passage begin to fulfil Gen 12? How does it point us to Christ the King, our victor, ruler and leader?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Gen 14:17–24, Abram Blessed)

- How is Abram like a king in this passage?
- How does Melchizedek acknowledge Abram?
- Why is tithing such an important spiritual discipline?
- How does the king of Sodom fail to acknowledge Abram?
- As a type, how must we accept or reject Jesus?

READ: Genesis 15

QUESTIONS:

1. *Abram renounced his right to any reward from the battle, still wondering about his reward and future in the land (Sodom was obviously an enemy).*
2. *V. 1- The language is strong, like that of God speaking to a prophet.*
3. **V. 1- According to His promises and recent victory, why ought Abram' have needed to worry?**
4. **Vv. 2–3- What key promise remained unfulfilled? How intense was Abram's yearning for a child? (Why?).**

5. What was Abram's plan? How did God have other plans? Why must we always rely on divine vs. human plans?
6. What do you think receiving this vision would have been like? (dust- Gen 12, stars- Gen 15, sand- Gen 17).
7. *V. 6- A most quoted verse in the NT: Ro 4:3, 22; Gal 3:6 and Ja 2:23. It is the first-time belief is mentioned in Genesis! Justification is that act of God declaring the sinner just in His sight, through the merit of Christ, by faith. ([Justification](#)). **Why must justification be by faith?***
8. *V. 6- How might this verse be understood retroactively, since Abram first displayed faith in Gen 12? (c.f. Gal 3:8b and Heb 11:8–9).*
9. *Vv. 7–11- God entered a covenant (agreement) with Abram, confirming His promise. This is alluded to in Gen 12 and further elaborated in Gen 17. It was common at this time for parties to kill and split animals ('cutting a covenant') and walk through them as a way of saying 'So shall be done to me if I don't keep my end of the bargain.' **Why could Abram trust God? God does the same with us in the New Covenant when we believe the Gospel. What confirmation has God given us in Christ?***
10. *V. 12 & 17- We often associate light with God's presence, why is darkness used here? (Are there other times in the Bible?).*
11. *As part of the covenant, God also revealed Abram's end and when his offspring would inherit the land (400+ years later, c.f. Jn 8:56 & Heb 11:39–40 for his long-range faith). **How does God's plan usually require patience and involve faith?! (Hab 2:3). (Note- 1st time peace is used).***
12. *V. 16- How are God's plans inter-related? How does this demonstrate His patience and justice?*
13. *Aside from representing the Lord, how might these be prophetic of God's presence when He led the Israelites out of Egypt?*
14. *These were partly fulfilled in Solomons day (1 Ki 4:21) today through the Church (Ro 4:13; Mt 5:5) and in the future (Rev 11:15, Rev 21:1). **How do past fulfilments inspire present faith and future hope?***

NEXT WEEK: April 24- No LG, members' meeting.