



STORY

8/5/03

The Promise of a Son - Genesis 15:1-18:15

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord God, You have promised in Your Word that You will give us all things we need in this life. You have promised to guard and watch over us. Even when things look bleak and discouraging, we can trust in Your Word. I know that You have promised me everlasting life through faith in Jesus. Help me to trust Your promises completely as Abraham trusted You, that You would give him a son in his old age. Lead me to be a good example of a faithful, trusting child of God for my children. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Covenant- a mutual agreement or promise between two or more persons

Circumcision- cutting of the foreskin of the male organ done when the male child was 8 days old

OUTER AIM

God keeps all His promises.

INNER AIM

Our faith is strengthened by God's repeated promises in His Word.

BACKGROUND (Rupprecht *Bible History References Vol. 1*, pp. 56-59)

When God first came to Abraham and asked him to leave his home and family, He promised to be with him and to bless him. In our story today we see how the Lord kept this great promise which strengthened Abraham's faith.

Genesis 15:2

Abraham reminds God of the promise He had given him.

In Old Testament times it was considered a curse and a shame to not have children.

For Abraham, this was even a greater burden because of the promise that God had given him concerning the Messiah coming from His seed.

v. 4

God repeats His promise He had made earlier to Abraham.

It won't be Abraham's servant, Eliezer, but the heir will come from Abraham's body.

v. 5

God gives Abraham a visible sign of His promise--the stars in the sky.

v. 6

Abraham put his trust in God's Word, His Promise.

Paul calls Abraham, "the father of all those who believe." (Romans 4:11)

Abraham was justified in the eyes of God, not because of his works, but by faith in the promised Savior.

We see that the Old Testament believer is saved the same way the New Testament believe is--through Jesus. (Acts 15:11)

Genesis 17:1

Many years have gone by since that first promise. Abraham is now 99 years old and still has no son.

With God nothing is impossible. He is able to fulfill all His promises.

Abraham walked in faith in the promised Savior.

Abraham was righteous in God's eyes because of his faith in Jesus.

v. 3

In worshipful reverence, Abraham throws himself down on the ground before his Lord.

v. 5

Abraham means "father of a multitude" or "father of many nations."

His new name was another outward sign to strengthen Abraham's faith.

vs.10-13

Circumcision is the seal of the righteousness of faith and a type of Baptism--the seal of the forgiveness of sins promised in the Gospel and made ours through faith. (Romans 4:11)

v.15

Sarah means "princess." Not just Abram's princess (Sarai="my princess"), but a princess of nations, eventually of Jesus Himself.

18:1

Mamre was a district of Hebron, 20 miles south of Jerusalem. (See Rupprecht p. 57)

v. 2

One was the Son of God who had assumed the form of a man. The other two were angels in human form.

vs.3-5

Abraham was a very gracious host even to these strangers (two angels and the Son of God), this being fruits of his faith. (Hebrews 13:2)

v. 10

God calms Abraham's fears and doubts, even though it had been 24 years since that first promise. God's words, "I will certainly return to you...your wife shall have a son," gave to Abraham the confident assurance of the fulfillment of that promise. This promise would be fulfilled within the next year.

v. 12

Sarah doubted. She looked at her aged body and that of her husband and she could not believe it would happen. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) God does answer all of our prayers, sometimes it is many years before we see or realize the answer. Never doubt HIS PROMISES!!!

v. 13-14

The LORD repeats His promise also showing Sarah that He is omniscient and knows what is in her heart.

v. 15

Sarah denies that she laughed and is convicted of her sin when the LORD says, "No, but you did laugh." (Hebrews 11:11) "Through faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised."

STUDENT PRAYER

Holy Spirit, the devil, the world, and my flesh are against my listening to Your voice and following You. Keep me in the faith that trusts in Jesus and His word. Remind me of what my God has said, whenever I am tempted to sin. I ask this in the name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

PRESENTATION

1) God used His Word, His Promises to make Abraham's faith stronger. God makes our faith stronger in the same way: through His Word which we hear in church, read at home, and learn in Christian Day School, Sunday School, Confirmation and Bible Class.

2) There are times when our faith, like Abraham's and Sarah's becomes weak and we begin to doubt God's love and His promises toward us. This is when we especially need to remain in the Word. **ONLY GOD'S WORD CAN MAKE OUR FAITH STRONGER!** Proverbs 3:5 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

3) The keeping of this promise of a son was so important because from Isaac the Messiah--Jesus--would come who is the Savior of all people.

4) Our salvation is by faith alone, by faith alone in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Believers in Jesus are righteous before God because by faith we have accredited to us Christ's perfection. Righteousness is not by our own works, but by faith - trusting, resting upon God's promises! Faith in God's Word, His Promise of a Son, Savior, Forgiveness, Salvation! This faith is also a gift of God worked in us by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 2:8-10; I Corinthians 12:3

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

I Corinthians 12:3b - "...and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

Middle any of the above and...

Ephesians 2:8,9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Romans 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Upper any of the above and...

Galatians 3:11 - "But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for The just shall live by faith."

Romans 4:3-5 - "For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness."

HYMN CHOICES

By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless - TLH #373

Not What These Hands have Done - TLH #389

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace - TLH #297