

GOD MAKES BIG PROMISES TO ABRAHAM (review)**Genesis 11:29-12:7 & 13:16**

11:29 Abraham's wife was named Sarah. 30 But Sarah was childless – she could not have children.

12:1 Creator God said to Abraham, “Leave your country – leave your people – leave your close relatives. Go to another land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation of people. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. And you will be a blessing – 3 through you, I will bless all the peoples in the world.”

4 So Abraham left his country, people, and close relatives – Abraham obeyed God. Abraham was 75 years old when he left (and Sarah was 65). 5 And Abraham went to Canaan. 13:14 Creator God said to Abraham, 15 “I give Canaan to you – and I give Canaan to your descendants. 16 I will make your descendants like the dust on the ground. No one can count the dust – so no one will be able to count your descendants.”

ABRAHAM BELIEVES GOD – SO GOD SAYS: ABRAHAM IS GOOD**Genesis 15:2-6**

15:2 But Abraham said to God, “What can you give me? I have no children – I have no heir. So my servant will inherit everything I have – my servant will get everything you give me. 3 You have given me no children. So my servant will be my heir.”

4 Then God said to Abraham, “Your servant will not be your heir. You will have a son – and your son will be your heir.” 5 God took Abraham outside (at night) – and God said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars – if you can count them! Your descendants will be as many as the stars.”

6 Abraham believed God. So God decided: Abraham's faith is goodness – God looked at Abraham's faith, and God gave Abraham goodness.

Option #2 = Believe God & God Makes You Good (and You Live Forever)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS?**Genesis 15:7, 13-18**

7 Creator God said to Abraham, “I brought you to Canaan – and I give Canaan to you.

13 “(But first) your descendants will go to another country – they will be strangers in that country. For 400 years that country will treat your descendants badly – and your descendants will become slaves. 14 But I will punish that country. And your descendants will come out of that country – and your descendants will be very rich.

16 “Then your descendants will come back to Canaan – and I will give Canaan to your descendants. But you cannot have Canaan now – because the Canaanites are not bad enough yet. The Canaanites must sin much more – then I will give Canaan to your descendants.

18 God made this promise to Abraham, “I give Canaan to your descendants – I give them the land from the Euphrates River to the Wadi of Egypt.”

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was Sarah's problem? (Genesis 11:30)

Sarah & Abraham could not have children. How do you think they felt about it?

- How old were Abraham and Sarah? (Genesis 12:4)

Do you think they still had hope? Did they think: We can have children?

- What did God promise Abraham about Abraham's descendants? (Genesis 13:16)

- But what did Abraham say to God? (Genesis 15:2)

- When Abraham dies, who will inherit everything? (verses 2-3)

- So what did God promise Abraham? (verse 4)

- What did God show Abraham? (verse 5)

Have you seen the Milky Way?

Can you count the stars?

How do you think Abraham felt when he saw the Milky Way?

- What did Abraham do? (verse 6)

- So what did God do? (verse 6)

Why is this one of the most important verses in the Bible?

Is this Option #1?

Always do good – and you will live forever?

Or is this Option #2?

Believe God – and God will make you good – and you will live forever?

¹What did Abraham learn about Option #1 and Option #2? ³The Bible says, “Abraham believed God. So God decided: Abraham’s faith is goodness – (this goodness is a gift” – this is Option #2). ⁴But when a man works at a company, his salary is not a gift. The company must pay the man his salary – (this is Option #1). ⁵But (in Option #2) a man does not work – he does not work hard to be good – the man just trusts God. The man believes God who says to sinners: You are clean. And God looks at the man’s faith – and God gives the man goodness.

Romans 4:1-5

Option #2 = Believe God (have faith in God) —> God makes you good

For example, it is like your bank account:

- You have no money – you have no job – and you are very sick.
And you owe 1 million dollars to the bank!
You are in big trouble.
- But you believe that the bank owner is a very kind person.
So you say to him, “Please help me.”
And the bank owner answers, “Because you asked me, I will give you
1 billion dollars – your request is worth 1 billion dollars.”
- So the bank owner cancels your 1-million-dollar debt –
and the bank owner puts 1 billion dollars into your account.
- Then the bank owner counts your money – and you have 1 billion dollars!

God counts our faith and says: You are good!

Where does our goodness come from?

It is not our goodness! We are not good!

8 You cannot save yourself. God’s wonderful love saves you – it is God’s gift to you. And you receive God’s gift by faith – by believing in Jesus.

9 You cannot make yourself good – you cannot work to be saved. So no one can boast – no one can say to God: I am good. Ephesians 2:8-9

Why?

Jesus Christ is our goodness.

1 Corinthians 1:30

- When will God give Canaan to Abraham’s descendants? (Genesis 15:13-16)
- Why will Abraham’s descendants have to wait more than 400 years (about 600 years total)?
(verse 16)

Was God kind to the Canaanites?

How quickly should God punish bad things that people do?

Do you think that 600 years is too long or too short?

Do you want God to punish very bad people quickly?

Do you want God to punish you quickly?!

Sometimes we must wait a long time to receive God’s promises:

Abraham’s descendants waited 600 years to receive God’s promise.

We have been waiting 2000 years for Jesus to come back to earth.

Why do you think God sometimes waits a long time to punish people?

Why does God sometimes wait a long time to keep his promises?

Some people think that God is slow to keep his promises. But God is not slow to keep his promises. No. God is patient with you. God does not want anyone to die forever. God wants everyone to repent.

2 Peter 3:9

Do you understand? – God's kindness leads you to repent.

Romans 2:4