

## Standing on the Promises of God

### Genesis 15:1-6 (NRSV)

God's Covenant with Abram

**15** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>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?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Giving honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the men, women, and children of God. To my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Today, as we reflect on the life of Abram (Abraham the patriarch), we will share in the Blessings of the topic "Standing on the Promises of God."

According to the text, God makes a promise to Abram that his biological son (own flesh and blood) would be his heir. Now, it's important to understand that the name Abram in the Hebrew language means "exalted father." Can you imagine how Abram may have felt with a name that meant "exalted father," yet he did not have any children? Many may have taken this reality as an opportunity to make fun of Abram. It must have concerned him greatly because we see in verse 2 and 3 his inquiry of an heir, because he understands that of Eliezer of Damascus will be the heir of his household.

Verse 4 shares with us that the Word of the Lord came to Abram. Isn't it a blessing to know that the Word of the Lord is a living **Word**? It picks us up when we are down. It informs us. It's like a two-edged sword. It is the sword of the spirit. The power of the Word came to Abram informing him of the revelation that his heir would be his very own seed. (The seed issued from his own body.) His son and heir would be his biological son. O' my goodness, what a powerful promise. The lord went further by taking Abram outside telling him to "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count

them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he **believed the LORD**; and the LORD<sup>l<sup>b</sup></sup> reckoned it to him **as righteousness**.

Has God made any promises to you? Maybe you should take a moment and jot them down. Big Bethel, In chapter 16 Abram assumed Ishmael would be his heir. But in chapter 17, God made a promise, that a son named Isaac, would be born of Abrams wife Sarai. God often makes promises to His people, promises which they sometimes try to fulfill by their own efforts and desires. While it's wise to take a proactive approach, we must all understand that this is God's work. God is the only one who can bring the promise into fruition.

Won't He do it? I know He will. Y'all know the story. When Abram trusted God, something amazing happened. God changed his name to Abraham, which means the father of many nations. God also told him that his wife Sarai had a new name, which was Sarah. Can anybody testify that we serve a miracle working God?

He makes promises and He brings them to pass. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God!!!

**According to Isaiah 40:29** - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

**Isaiah 40:31** - But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

**Isaiah 43:2** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Didn't He promise to keep food on the table?

Didn't He promise to keep shoes on your feet?

Didn't He promise to be your doctor in the sick room.

Didn't He promise to be your lawyer in the courtroom?

Didn't He promise to be your shield and buckler?

Didn't He promise to provide for you? Didn't He? Didn't He?  
Didn't He? Didn't He promise to be your shelter in the midst of  
the storm.

Didn't He promise that He'd be more for you, than the whole  
world against you?

Didn't He promise, that He'd never leave you, nor forsake you?

Hey, Hey, Heeeeeeyyyyyy!!! Ain't God Alright. Have mercy  
Jesus. Ain't He Alright!!! Yeah, Yeah, Yeeaaahhhh!!!

Somebody 'ought to say "Yes." I'm standing on the Promises of  
God. I'm gonna' stand, no matter how the winds of opposition  
blow. I'm standing on the promises of God.

In closing, I'm coming on in now. I see a landing strip. I see the  
Holy air traffic controller waving me in. I'm making my descent,  
but I want you to know that Abram (Abraham) and Sarai  
(Sarah) were standing on the promises of God. You see they  
were super senior citizens. In Genesis Chapter 17, Abram was  
99 years old when the Lord appeared to him and said "I am  
God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. (With God, All  
things are possible.) The Lord shares, "And I will make my  
covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly  
numerous." <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to  
him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the  
ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name  
be Abram,<sup>[b]</sup> but your name shall be Abraham;<sup>[c]</sup> for I have made  
you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you  
exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings  
shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me  
and you, and your offspring after you throughout their  
generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and  
to your offspring<sup>[d]</sup> after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you, and to your  
offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the  
land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their  
God."<sup>9</sup> God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my  
covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their  
generations. (Abram believed God and it was accounted unto

him as righteousness. Beloved, the promises of God belong to you. Believe God today. Stand on them and receive your blessing.)

John 3:16 says God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him (Jesus Christ), would not perish, but have everlasting life. Take the opportunity to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior. He is the gift of promise. Romans 10:9-11 teaches, <sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.