



# By Faith

Genesis 12-25

## Genesis 15:1

After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great.

# MAIN IDEA

In Genesis 15, God met  
a fearful and discouraged Abram with:

- *Gracious Assurance*
- *A Unilateral Promise*
  - *Patient Delay*

Through Abram's response, we see the Bible's first  
explanation of the doctrine of justification by faith.

## Genesis 15:1-3

After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield; your reward will be very great.

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what can you give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> Abram continued, “Look, you have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir.”



Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

Therefore my heart celebrates, and I give thanks to him with my song.

## Genesis 15:4-5

Now the word of the LORD came to him: “This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “Your offspring will be that numerous.”

## 2 Corinthians 4:17

For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

Genesis 15:7-12, 17-20

<sup>7</sup> He also said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, “Lord GOD, how can I know that I will possess it?”

<sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon...”

<sup>10</sup> So he brought all these to him, cut them in half, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> Birds of prey came down



<sup>10</sup> So he brought all these to him, cut them in half, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, a deep sleep came over Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him...

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals...

<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “I give this land to your offspring, from the Brook of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River: <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hethites, Perizzites, Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.”

**Jeremiah 34:18**

**As for those who disobeyed my covenant, not keeping the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat them like the calf they cut in two in order to pass between its pieces.**

## Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.



## Genesis 15:12-16

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, a deep sleep came over Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him.

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know this for certain: Your offspring will be resident aliens for four hundred years in a land that does not belong to them and will be enslaved and oppressed...”

**<sup>14</sup> However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will go out with many possessions. <sup>15</sup> But you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”**

## 1 Timothy 1:16

But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life.

## 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.



# Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

## Romans 3:10-12

There is no one righteous, not even one.

<sup>11</sup> There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

<sup>12</sup> All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.

**Romans 3:20**

**No one will be justified in God's sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law.**

Romans 4:2

If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about—but not before God.



## Galatians 3:6-9

just like Abraham who believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness? <sup>7</sup> You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons. <sup>8</sup> Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. <sup>9</sup> Consequently, those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.