

Oct 01, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
All of God's promises are backed by His wisdom, love, and power

HYMN FOR THE WEEK:
Standing on the promises that cannot fail, When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God. [Carter]

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

(Gen 21:2 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 21, 2010)

Series: Covenants with God

UNIT: Called into Covenant with God

NEXT WEEK

God's Covenant with Israel
(Exodus 19:16-25)

God's Covenant with Abraham Gen 15:1-6, 17-21

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson illustrates the major components of **God's Covenant with Abraham**. The **study's aim** is to sense the degree of faith Abram needed to believe God's Covenant with him. The **study's application** is to believe God's promises to us even though their fulfillment seems impossible.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

We move now from the signs of God's covenant to what it means to be called into a covenant with God, including not only the divine side of the covenant (God's promises) but also the human side (what God wants from us). How do we fulfill God's covenant? How do we walk with God in a covenantal relationship? Once again a covenant with God is a special kind of agreement, part of which spells out obligations specified by God. When we make covenantal oaths like in a wedding ceremony, we make promises to God. We are to fulfill these promises under the watchful eye of God. So all of us must take biblical covenants very seriously. The text involves God's covenant with Abram, early on in the story of his life (later he would be renamed Abraham). At this point in the narrative, Abram had responded to God's call and had migrated into the land to which God had called him. God promised him a land to possess and descendants (seed) to fill it. Abram certainly did not have a clear understanding of what it all meant at first. From our vantage point, we can see that God's call of Abram was part of His irrevocable and sovereign plan to bring a Saviour into the world to bring the blessing of salvation to all nations. Abram accepted the promise of a land and a people. This faith was counted for righteousness before God (Gen. 15:6), but there was still much growth and understanding to come. God intended to use Abram as a mighty instrument in accomplishing His plan. It took time and much spiritual growth for Abram to fully embrace this, as we learn from reading his story. Part of fulfilling our side of being in a covenant with God is the realization that we are His instruments in the world. It is tempting to look just at God's side of it, seeing and receiving that which He is promising to us in salvation. But God's covenant includes even more than the gift and promise of salvation, as wonderful and significant as that is. The moment we become part of God's covenant people, we become instruments in His hands to fulfill His purposes. What does it mean to walk with God in covenant? Certainly, it means we acknowledge Him as our Saviour. We receive the gift of His salvation. But it also means that we become His instruments, just as Abram did—instruments who fulfill His plan and purpose and render glory to Him. How are we doing on that part of it? It takes time and spiritual growth for us to fully see all that God wants to do in and through our lives. We begin our Christian journey as baby Christians, very dependent on others and very centered on ourselves. In time we see that we also have a calling to learn and fulfill God's plan for our lives. By faith we grow in our understanding of how and where God is leading us. Let us not stop growing on the day of our salvation! Let us realize that the day of our salvation is just the beginning of a journey in which we learn to be useful to God. May we, like our spiritual father Abraham, be greatly used of God!

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Covenant Promises Misunderstood (Gen 15:1-3)

Misunderstood reward (1)

Misunderstanding and using human logic to resolve

(Gen 16:1-2)

Misunderstanding the full meaning of a child as a reward (Ps 127:3)

Misunderstandings and afraid to ask about them (Luke 9:44-45)

Misunderstanding about the actions of God (John 13:6-9)

Misunderstanding and worrying versus seeking God (Matt 6:33-34)

Misunderstood timing (2-3)

God's timing is different because of His superior ways and authority (Isa 55:8-9)

God's timing is different because He is not limited by time (2 Pet 3:8)

There is a time for everything, but all of it is up to God (Eccl 3:1)

God does things when the time has fully come (Gal 4:4)

Timing half understood but not fulfilled (Acts 7:5)

Timing deferred (Prov 13:12)

It is not for man to know God's timing (Acts 1:7)

Covenant Promises Assurances (Gen 15:4-6)

Promises of heirship (4)

An heir through God's promises (1 Kings 8:20)

An heir through succession (1 Chron 17:11)

An heir through God's covenant (Ps 89:28-29)

An heir through God's oath (Ps 132:11)

An heir through prophesied genealogy (Isa 11:1-2)

Promises that are sure (5)

God's promises are sure because of the proof of His mighty acts (Ps 145:10-13)

God's promises are sure because by His words the creation was done (2 Peter 3:4-9)

God's promises are sure because His Divine creation proves His eternal power (Rom 1:20)

God's promises are sure because God cannot lie (Heb 6:13-19)

God's promises are sure because His faithfulness surrounds Him (Ps 89:6-8)

God's promises are sure because His promises have been thoroughly tested (Ps 119:140)

Promises that can be believed (6)

God's promises can be believed through faith (Rom 4:3-5)

God's promises can be believed because there is a blessing in having faith in them (Gal 3:6-9)

God's promises can be believed through obedience (Heb 11:8-9)

God's promises can be believed through faith and action working together (James 2:20-24)

God's promises can be believed because of His eternal presence (2 Cor 4:13-14)

Promises that strengthens (6)

Our faith must be based on God's power (1 Cor. 2:5)

The result of our faith should be action (2 Cor. 4:13)

It is not the size of "our" faith, it is the power of God, the object of our faith (Luke 17:5-6)

Even in faith, we need encouragement (Romans 1:12)

Anything not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23)

Covenant Promises Affirmed (Gen 15:17-21)

Affirming the right time (17)

Led to the right place and the right time by believing in God's directions (Gen 22:2-5)

Led to the right place and the right time by being obedient (Acts 8:26-29)

Led to the right place and the right time by Divine guidance (Acts 16:6-10)

Led to the right place and the right time to accomplish a specific purpose (Est 4:12-14)

Led to the right place and the right time by God's arrangement (1 Cor 12:18)

Affirming the inheritance (18-21)

An inheritance of God's kingdom (Luke 12:32)

An inheritance because of being an heir (Rom 8:17)

An inheritance of the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

An inheritance for those who are poor in the eyes of the world (James 2:5)

An inheritance that can never perish (1 Pet 1:3-4)