

WALKING THE BLOOD PATH

Genesis 15.1-21

God first promises Abram a people, a place, and a blessing, and over time that promise grows and is confirmed through victory and divine provision. In Genesis 15, God seals the promise with a covenant, and Abram's faith is counted as righteousness.

God speaks into our fear

Abram stands in the tension between the promises God has already spoken and the reality of what he currently sees.

Years have passed. No son. No heir. No visible fulfillment. The promise has always been clear, but the fulfillment has not yet arrived. Waiting has a way of wearing on the soul. It exposes what we really believe. Not whether God *can* act, but whether He *will*.

God credits righteousness through faith

"And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness." Abram is not declared righteous because he performed flawlessly and not because he eliminated all doubt. Not because he earned divine favor.

He believed. And God credited righteousness to him. Abram believes in verse 6, yet he asks questions in verse 8. Faith and questions live in the same heart. Real faith is not the absence of struggle. Real faith is bringing your questions to the God you still trust.

The God who begins redemption is the God who finishes it.

God secures the promise Himself

In the 'blood path covenant', both parties would walk between the split animals, vowing themselves to the consequences if the promise failed. But Abram does not walk. Only God passes through the pieces. Abram knew exactly what was happening in front of him, and he wasn't ready to initiate this covenant, so God did it for him.

This is grace in its rawest form because Abram will fail, Israel will fail, and we, every one of us... will fail. Yet the covenant is still upheld, not by human ability or a 50/50 split but fully by God's faithfulness.

"The promise of God always outruns our obedience." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Even when our prayers feel unanswered and our hearts struggle, we can trust the God who keeps His promises.

Centuries later, when we see the promised seed of Abraham enter Jerusalem, we realize that this covenant, this path of blood and promise finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ, who walks it for us, bearing the curse we deserve, so that salvation might be received not by our performance, but by faith in God's promise fulfilled in Him.

From beginning to end, salvation is of the Lord, and it is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone for the glory of God alone.

Key Idea: Salvation comes by faith in God's promise, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, credited to all who believe.

Application Questions:

What areas of your life feel uncertain or delayed, and what does that reveal about where your hope is currently resting?

How does knowing that God's promises are secured by His faithfulness, not your performance, affect the way you live and pray?

When you face unanswered prayers or long seasons of waiting, how do you usually respond, and how might faith like Abram's change that response?

What practical step can you take this week to place your faith fully on God's promises, even in waiting or uncertainty?