

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"God's Righteousness"
Genesis 15:1-6
Study-35

Job 25:4 How can a person be right before God?

Our Passage Gives The Answer: Genesis 15:6

Many claim to "Believe In Salvation By Faith" But Not Salvation By Faith Alone!

This is the most important verse of the Bible. It teaches the most important doctrine in all of Scripture which is **"Justification through faith."**

These 3 all important words are given to us in this passage.

- 1. Believe** – Abram placed his faith
- 2. Reckoned** - (Counted) – Financial
- 3. Righteous** - Status or standing in God's eyes.

Passage is recorded **three times** in the NT: **Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Abram Models Salvation Through Faith And Is Declared By God To Be Righteous As A Result Of His Faith"

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| 1. Verse 1 | God's Protection And Provision: |
| 2. Verses 2-3 | Impatient With God's Promises: |
| 3. Verses 4-5 | God's Word On His Promises: |
| 4. Verse 6 | God Credits Faith In His Promises: |

1. Verse 1 God's Protection And Provision:

Genesis 15:1 After these things Context – "What Things?" **Genesis 14** Abram had built an altar and was living in **Mamre**, which is in **Hebron**. Word gets to Abram that the 5 Kings of Sodom rebelled against the 4 Kings of the North, a war took place and Lot his nephew was taken hostage, rescues Lot, Abram returns and has an encounter with **Melchizedek king of Salem**, Abram gives a tenth of the spoils to him. Abram rejects the offer of the spoils from the king of Sodom because Abram chose God over this world. **the word of the LORD came to Abram** This is the 4th time God has spoken to Abram. **Genesis 12:1-3; 12:7; 13:14-17; now 15:1**

in a vision, 1st time vision is used: (Possibly audible voice) Not a dream because you would be asleep, but like a dream except you are awake.

saying, "Do not fear, Abram, God spoke in an audible voice to Samuel – **1 Samuel 3:4-14 with little Samuel.**

What can we do when we find ourselves in such a place? Genesis 15:1
After these things the word of the LORD 1st time this phrase is used in the
Scripture.

"Do not fear, Abram, Over **83 times** in the Bible we see this phrase about not being afraid.

I am This is the **1st in Scripture of the "I Am" Statements of God:**
Exodus 3:6 Gospel of John Jesus declares **seven times "I Am" John 8:58**

God's Protection: (God Would Protect) a shield to you; I am your protection.
Genesis 14:15 Abram Defeated the Kings, thinks retaliation. **Psalm 33:20;**
Psalm 84:9

Satan could not touch Job - Job 1:10

Abram, Rich Beyond Measure: (God Would Fulfill) Your reward shall be
very great." *"God was Abram's Treasure"*

Deuteronomy 10:9; Colossians 2:2-3; Philippians 4:19

Are we satisfied with God alone? Do we need something else?

2. Verses 2-3 Impatient With God's Promises:

Genesis 15:2 Abram said, **"O Lord GOD,** first time "Adonai Yahweh" *Master/Lord and covenant keeper. "sovereign Lord"*

The depth of theology Abram Master/Lord and covenant keeper. John 8:56

Verses 2-3 Abram Took His Fears To The Lord In Prayer: what will You
give me, since I am childless, Context – Verse 1 Your reward shall be very
great." Abram's argument is, what good is treasure if I have no one to pass it on to?

The fear of no offspring! It is now about 10 years
Common to experience lapse in faith, Elijah 1 Kings 18-19

Abram is the father of faith. Whom is being tested in his faith.
Genesis 12:2; Genesis 15:2-3; Genesis 16:1; Genesis 16:16
God had to bring this couple to the end of themselves so that it was
humanly impossible that that they or any man could take the credit.

and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Genesis 12:5

Nuzi Documents: *Nuzi (City in Iraq 2000 BC) records demonstrate that the cultural practices recorded in the book of Genesis are authentic.*

the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Abram is asking the question since God had not given him a son.

Genesis 15:3 one born in my house is my heir." wanted to call **Eliezer** his heir

3. Verses 4-5 God's Word On His Promises:

Genesis 15:4 God Speaks: Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, God comes now with a specific Word to Abram's prayer to God.

"This man will not be your heir; You are going to have your own child!

but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."
Fulfilled in **Genesis 21:2** in Isaac (15 years later) **Galatians 4:28**

Genesis 15:5 and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Genesis 22:17; 26:4; Exodus 32:13 Psalm 19:1

Descendants As Dust Of The Earth – **Genesis 13:16**

Descendants As Stars of Heaven – **Genesis 15:5**

Descendants As Sands Upon The Seashore – **Genesis 22:17**

And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." God repeated this promise after Abram was going to offer up Isaac to the Lord. **Genesis 22:17**

Romans 4:18; Hebrews 11:12

Ultimate fulfillment was spiritual **Galatians 3:29**

4. Verse 6 God Credits Faith In His Promises:

Genesis 15:6 Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? Note **Scripture** (Singular, like Bible. Paul saw Scripture as unified) **what does the Scripture say?** (Paul understood that "when Bible speaks, God speaks") literally "*through the written text what does the living voice of God say?*" Paul turns to the Scriptures to hear what God has to say!

The Believer's Convictions Are Based On Scripture: For what does the Scripture say? "When Bible speaks God speaks"

We use terms like **redemption, reconciliation, sanctification, glorification, adoption, propitiation.**

Justification – When God declares the guilty guiltless. It is a courtroom scene.

Adoption - is the picture of God taking me His child as a loving Father.

Reconciliation - a family brought together.

Justification – *"Is the act of God whereby God declares the believing sinner righteous in Christ on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the cross."*

Then he believed 1st time Believe is used in Scripture: He trusted in Him in what God had said. That we are sinners. **Believed** - *"to commit, put in trust with, belief in God, believing what God tells us"* Abraham placed himself in an attitude of trust – surrendering

Romans 4:11

in the LORD; His person, not a force, a personal relationship. **Who did Abraham believe in? believed in the Lord; GOD** He was thinking I have been in the land 10 years and still don't have an heir. He believed in God and His Word.

and He reckoned it to him give to. It is an accounting term that means to place on the account. **Romans 4:3 AND IT WAS CREDITED** - used **11 times**

Romans 4, Verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24

An accounting term *"to put down to one's account, let revenues be placed on deposit at the storehouse"* God's righteousness deposited for Abraham.

Psalm 32:1-2

as righteousness. To declare to be holy. **righteousness – 40 times** in Romans *"in the right"* **wickedness** – *"in the wrong"* Literally *"a God-kind of righteousness, God-righteousness"* *holy just innocent, perfect rightness"*

Romans 4:23-24; Hebrews 10:38; Romans 3:23

Application:

1. Is Our Faith Resting On God, The Son Jesus Christ Alone For Our Salvation? Are We Trusting In Our Works Or Christ?
2. If We Are Trusting Christ Alone, Has Our Faith Produced Works? Is Our Faith Real Enough That It Has Changed My Life? (We Should Have A Faith That Works)
3. "Under A System Of Works Everything Depends On The Sinner, Under Grace Everything Depends On The Savior"