

## Sermon Discussion - 18 June 2023

Read Genesis 15:1-21

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

Have you ever trusted God in a difficult situation and enjoyed a victory only afterwards to experience fear? What was the fear about? How did you process it and what did you learn?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

What in Abram's immediate past might have caused him to experience fear and feel the need for protection and some kind of reward? How did God answer this fear?

- Wouldn't 10,000 troops and a boat load of wealth have been a better solution? Why? Why not?
- In what way does God promise to be your shield and very great reward?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Looking at verses 2-9, what are the ways that show God engages us in our concerns about how His promises actually work in our lives?
2. What new information did Abram receive in this chapter about God's promise of land, descendants, and blessing? How would this revelation clarify and challenge Abram's faith? How did it affect Joseph's faith hundreds of years later (see Genesis 50:24-25, Hebrews 11:22)? Did either of these men live to see it? What promises do you deeply believe even though you might not see it in this life?
3. God sealed the Abrahamic covenant by a formal blood contract in v. 17-18. Normally both parties in a contract agree to their part of the conditions and both pass through the middle of the slaughtered animals. What does it mean in this case that God alone passes through the pieces? How is this comparable to our salvation? Read Ephesians 2:4-10.
4. In v. 6, we see that Abram believed God and He credited it to him as righteousness. How does crediting righteousness to us differ from God recognizing that we are righteous in ourselves? Read and discuss Romans 4:4-6. What gives you deep joy and security in God's way of salvation?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Using Scripture, how would you help a “not yet Christian” see that a relationship with God is not based on our performance but given by God’s grace and received through faith?
- Try memorising Genesis 15:6...  
*And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.*
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?