

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Kingdom Promised
(Genesis 15)

The Kingdom Promised

God's Promise: *(big picture)*

➤ *through Abram God will restore the kingdom to all the nations of the earth*

The Kingdom Promised

God's Promise: *(details)*

➤ *to bless Abram, give him a land, and make him the father of a great nation*

Obstacles: 1) Canaanites
2) Childless

Abrahamic Covenant

➤ *Abram sees his childless condition as an insurmountable obstacle*

Abrahamic Covenant

1. God's Explicit Promise

- Abram will have a natural child
- Abram's seed will be innumerable

Something only God can achieve!

Abrahamic Covenant

2. Abram's Response

- He believed!
- His act of faith is reckoned by God as righteousness

Faith is always and only the means of righteousness before God

Abrahamic Covenant

Romans 4:1-25

(1) Why does salvation (righteousness) only come through faith?

- so that salvation is entirely a gift of God's grace (unmerited)
- so that God alone is glorified – all human boasting is excluded

Abrahamic Covenant

Romans 4:1-25

(2) We are "justified" by a faith like Abraham's

- belief in the promise/work of God that is beyond natural explanation
- we believe in God who raised Jesus and promises us an eternal kingdom

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 15:7-21

Abrahamic Covenant

"Cutting" the Covenant

1. Symbolism

- walking between the bloody pieces evokes a curse for a failure to keep the covenant
- "smoking oven" and "flaming torch" is a theophany of God – He alone passes through the animals

Abrahamic Covenant

"Cutting" the Covenant

2. Significance

- God is placing the fulfillment of the promises solely upon Himself
- God swears by Himself – if He fails to bring these promises to pass may He perish!

God's promises to Abraham cannot fail!

Abrahamic Covenant

Conclusion

- God's fulfillment of this covenant has everything to do with our salvation
- Our hope of an eternal kingdom is secure

Hebrews 6:13-19