



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Pass the Promise Series, Lesson 12

Lesson Title: God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Take Home Point: God "signed" his agreement; we can believe it!

Warm-Up:

In our culture, it is customary and legally prudent to have a "will and testament" written and signed to declare the desired disposition of property a person leaves behind at death. In a sense, a will is a promise to beneficiaries that they will receive property that belonged to the one willing it to them. The promise is verified by witnesses who also sign the will. But they only witness the promise; they can not participate in promising what is not theirs. And there is nothing the beneficiaries can do to fulfill the promise, either. It is entirely up to the one writing the will to choose what is bequeathed to whom and when.

Read: Genesis 15

Observation (What happened?):

What was on Abram's mind when God spoke to him in Genesis 15:1?

God walked between the carcasses to "sign" a covenant. What caused God to sign his covenant with Abram?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Did Abram also walk between the animals? Who was responsible to fulfill the terms of the covenant? What was Abram's role?

Why do you think God told Abram about what would happen to his descendents?

Insight:

We sometimes have such a limited view of God. We think he will be angry if we ask him hard questions or tell him we are bothered, worried, or angry. But the Bible is full of real people who said or asked real things quite directly to God. Just like Abram did in our reading today; he didn't have a son, so what could God give him? Abraham does it again in Genesis 18. Moses argues in Exodus 4, Gideon questions and asks for signs in Judges 6, Elijah speaks out in 1 Kings 19, Jonah complains in Jonah 4, and there are others. And every time, when the person was honest with God, God patiently listened and responded to help the person understand this: God is in control, he is present, his plan will be accomplished, and he gives the resources needed to live for him in a sinful world. That was true then; it is true now. We can take anything to him and he will listen. Besides, he already knows it, because he knows our hearts!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is one promise God makes in the Bible that you need to claim today for your circumstances, believing he will keep that promise?

Do you know his promises? If Bible reading isn't already part of your daily activities, make a promise to God to start this week and keep it up.

Kingdom Quest Year 1, Lesson 12