



2/10/26

So... it's time for the Olympics... and I heard a commentator say that the ice skaters want to please the crowd, but their biggest concern is pleasing the judges. The decisions they make about their choreography are based on the opinions of the judges. I thought that was a really cool point for how we approach life. Whose opinion matters? It's the opinion of the Judge. Who's the Judge? The LORD! We can want other people to be pleased, but the decisions we make are for the pleasure of the Judge. That really impacted me. I also really want to live that way.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 15

What has happened since God called Abram to go to Canaan, and promised that he would be the father of a great nation in Genesis 12?

Well... Abram went to Egypt and had his hot wife agree to tell Pharaoh that she was his sister (she WAS his 1/2 sister) so that they wouldn't kill him to get to her. Abram did NOT protect his wife, but GOD DID. And God did not reject Abram for doing such a dumb, selfish thing. That gives me a lot of hope. I do a lot of dumb, selfish things. God doesn't reject me, either.

Also, during the time between Genesis 12 and 15, God saved Lot from being destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah... because of their absolute horrific evil hearts.

Finally, a very surreal event took place. Abram was blessed by Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of the Most High. From the book of Hebrews, I know that this was Jesus Himself meeting with Abram.

Abram also met with the king of Sodom, whose city was just destroyed. The king of Sodom had kidnapped Lot in retaliation of God's judgment, and Abram rescued him. Abram showed his faith and commitment to God by refusing to take any spoil or payment from the king of Sodom,

so that only God would get the credit for his riches.

Now I come to Genesis 15 ~

"After these things the word of the LORD Yahweh came to Abram in a vision: 'Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'" I'm guessing by the way Abram responded to this great promise, God must have known that he needed some encouragement.

Abram said, "O Lord GOD..." He referred to Him as Adonai Yahweh... Master LORD. Very respectful, but also confused. He said, "I don't get it. How is this supposed to happen? I still don't have a child of my own. Right now, the heir who will inherit my possessions is Eliezer of Damascus. Behold... check it out... YOU have not given me a child!" Abram knew that ALL things come from the Lord. If he had no child, the Lord had not given it. But Abram did not understand what I also so often don't understand... the story was not over.

God said, "Nope. Eliezer will not be your heir. You WILL have a son. Look up at all the stars and try to count them... by the way, you can't count the myriads of stars I've placed in the sky... but that's how your offspring will be."

Abram BELIEVED God and it was counted to him as RIGHTEOUSNESS. Righteousness is not based in what I DO. It is based in WHO I BELIEVE. If God says it, it is. How much unwavering peace would I have if I would just trust God's word? What pleases God more than anything I DO? My faith in Him. In fact, Romans 14:23 says that anything done without faith is sin. So even if I do the right thing, but it's for the wrong reasons, it is still sin. O Lord, please grow my faith!

I know that God's promise to Abram still was not answered for MANY years... and yet, God still kept His promise! O Lord, please help me to trust Your promises AND Your timing.

God reminded Abram that He had been with him this far, and He would be with him the rest of the way. Abram asked for a sign. "God said to him, 'Bring Me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought Him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away." Abram did not initiate or cause this covenant that was about to take place, but he did cooperate with God's plan. That's what God wants from me... not to take matters into my hands and initiate my own plans, but to cooperate with HIS plan.

As the sun set, God put Abram into a deep sleep. "And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him." Yikes. Sounds like a very restless sleep. In that dream, God told Abram what would take place with his offspring. God told him about the 400 years of slavery the Israelites were going to experience in Egypt. Whoa! God also said He would bring judgment on the nation they were enslaved to, and He would bring them out of the land with great possessions. Only GOD could allow someone to come out of slavery with the captors GIVING them great wealth as

they leave. When they left Egypt, God was going to lead them back to the Promised Land where they would be used to bring judgment on the people of the land because of their horrific atrocities against God. It's all there! Everything that was going to take place was declared hundreds of years beforehand AND it happened exactly as God said it would!!!

God told Abram he would not see any of that take place, but he would live to an old age and live in peace. God never withholds the truth from us, even if it's a hard truth. And He also never gives us the hard truth without also giving us hope. O Lord, please help me to trust You even in the hard and to keep my heart and mind set on the hope I have in You.

"When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces." This was to signify the covenant God made with Abraham. The fire passing between the animals that Abram had cut in half signified God's commitment to His promises. He promised to give him and his offspring the land of all these descendants of Ham... He literally named each one by name!!! This land was otherwise known as the Promised Land, now known as the land of Israel. God keeps His promises. It doesn't matter WHEN He makes them. He never forgets. He never loses His power to fulfill.

God made a covenant with me, too. The body that was broken for me was the body of His Son, Jesus Christ. And I am promised eternal life with Him. It doesn't matter WHEN He made that promise. It doesn't matter how long I live on this earth. He never forgets His promise. He never loses His power to fulfill it. Because I have put my faith in Jesus and His sacrifice and His resurrection, He has given me HIS righteousness. O Lord, please help me to trust You completely, to cooperate with Your plan and not try to make my own. Help me to be faithful to You in the waiting. You absolutely are MY Adonai Yahweh... my Master, my Personal Lord... and even more... Through Jesus, You are my Abba, Father. Praise Your Name!