

SERIES TITLE: OBSTACLES TO GOD'S PROMISES

PART 1: DELAYS

TEXT: GENESIS 15

INTRODUCTION.

As we continue studying through Genesis, we follow the life of Abraham, the great Patriarch. After receiving astounding promises from God, Abraham is faced with one obstacle after another. There is much we can learn from the man, because all of us deal with similar obstacles in our own lives.

DISCUSSION.

How do you assure someone that your word is good?

EXAMINATION.

- Vv.1-6 The Lord tells Abram not to be afraid, so he must be afraid. What do you think he fears?
- Why did God's reference to the stars in the sky prompt Abram to believe? What changed?
- Vv.7-11 God doesn't tell Abram why he wants the 5 animals or what to do with them. But Abram knows because that was how a covenant was made. Look at the example of Jeremiah 34:18-20. What does this tell us about the covenant ritual?
- Vv.12-16 What comfort, if any, do you see in this message?
- Vv. 17-21 What does the smoking fire pot and flame torch signify?
- What does it mean that Abram did not walk between the pieces?

APPLICATION.

- Can you give an example of a time you limited the future to what you could see, touch, produce, or imagine, rather than on what God promised to be true?
- What does this event in Abram's life teach us about dealing with such times?
- Why do God's greatest promises come with a delay?

- How does this account point to the sacrifice of Christ, and what significance does that have for your salvation?
- Read Hebrews 6:13-20. What is the hope that anchors our soul?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?