



God Has Promised Me!

Sunday - July 19, 2026

Genesis 15:7-18 (ESV)

7 And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” 8 But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” 9 He 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.” 10 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. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Can I trust you? Can I trust me?

- Today is about one word: Covenant.
- The Covenant God will make with a man named Abram will answer those two questions of trust.

In Genesis 12:1-2, God shows up to Abram. He zeroes in on this one man, a man who is worshipping idols with no foreseeable future and God calls Abram out.

- He says, *Get away from your father's house, from this land, from your idols, and go to a land I will show you. And I will make you into a great nation so that you will be a blessing to the whole human race.*
- Abram follows God. He's 75 when this all starts. He follows God to the land of Canaan and God says, *This is the land I'm giving you.*

Genesis 15:1 (ESV) After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

- What a great promise to claim in prayer. "God, be my shield."
- This vision Abram gets is something no one else in the first 5 books of the Bible gets. This is a clear, obvious revelation from God.
- But Abraham's response to this exceptional vision of God is not comfort, it's doubt.
- God is right in front of Abram, but ***doubting seems like the only option.***
- And that's where Abram is: *God, will you come through on your promise? Can I trust you?*
- He doubts.
- If Abram doubted, how do you think you'll fair? We will all doubt. With God, doubt is never encouraged, but doubts are always welcome and addressed.
- So Abram says, *"How can I know?" How can I really know what you're telling me is true?*
- God says, I'll show you. This is one of the most stunning things in all of scripture.
- In verses 9-10: God says, Bring me some animals. Cut their bodies in half. And Abraham doesn't ask why or how, he immediately knows what God is asking. He goes and finds the animals and begins to cut. He knows exactly how to cut the animals in two.

This is the making of a covenant.

- In this day, when parties needed to trust each other and know each other's words were true...their contract was made by acting it out and dramatizing the consequences if the contract....or the covenant...was broken.
- So the two parties would cut animals in two pieces, and lay them out, and walk in between them to make their covenant.
- As they walked between, they were making a promise to the other party: *If I do not come through on my words, then may I be cut off, cut up, may my flesh be scattered on the ground to be food for birds and wild animals, just like these animals on the ground.*

- In fact: vs 18 reads, *God made a covenant*. But the Hebrew word there is **cut**. God literally cut a covenant with Abram.
- And this ancient way was pretty effective. Maybe if we did this today we'd get better roofs.
- On covenants: The person with more power always came to the person with less power to cut the covenant.
- **Abram knows is that God is making a covenant.**
- God is the greater party.
- The stunning thing is not just that God enters into this covenant, but how he transforms it.
- In vs 17, against a backdrop of darkness, a blazing torch and a smoking fire pot appear. In the desert.
- The smoke and the fire are telling us that this is **God himself**. This is the very presence of God that has just showed up.
- And the smoke and fire go down the aisle formed by the cut pieces.
- God speaks as he passes through the pieces. *"You will have this land."* And he cut a covenant in this way with Abram. He made a contract. He said, Abram....*You can trust me.*
- In Romans Chapter 4 there's an interesting description about Abraham. Abraham trusts God even when everything is stacked against him. It looks like disaster to trust God, but Paul writes it this way: "he staggered not" Rom 4:20 KJV. He never wavered in his trust of God.
- How could he never stagger again in his trust of God? A: Because **God showed up and walked through the pieces.**
- But what about me? *"I know you'll be my God...but God, I'm not sure if I can live up to being your person."*
- That's where Abram is: *How can I be good enough? How can I keep my end?*
- That's our worry too. ***God is God and God is Good, but I'm not God and I'm not good.*** How do I keep my end?
- The second and most stunning thing here is that after God goes through the pieces, and makes these promises to Abraham, ***the whole thing is done.***
- Look at 17-18. It's over. The covenant has been cut. Unlike every other contract that Abraham has ever known ***only one person goes through the pieces, and it's the one person who doesn't need to go through the pieces.***
- **God went through the pieces for Abram.** *Abram, I will bless you. If I fail. I'll be cut off. That's my end. But I'm walking through for you too. So if you fail, I will still pay the penalty. I will absorb the cost no matter what.*
- This is your roofer saying, if you can't pay, I'll pay. This is your banker saying, if you can't pay, we won't go into foreclosure...I'll pay. This is your college saying, If you can't pay your school bill, we will pay. It's ludicrous. It's unheard of. But it's absolutely the gospel.
- The covenant that God made with Abram was this: *"Believe in me and not only will my failures not get in the way of your blessing, but even your failures won't get in the way of your blessing."*

Galatians 3: **13** *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—* **14** *so that in Christ Jesus the*

blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Romans 4 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” 23 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification

God’s covenant to you today: ***You can trust me, even when you can’t trust yourself.***

How do we get there?

Look at what he’s done, not what you’ve done.

- This event tells us ***we don’t have to walk through the pieces.***
- The gospel is that God walked through the pieces and took the penalty of all your doubts and failures and shortcomings on himself at the cross.

You are invited to ask God today, “How am I to know that I can trust you?”

- His answer will be this: Look at my son. Look at my love. Look at how I paid for everything.

You’re also invited to ask, “How can I trust myself God?”

- And the answer is exactly the same. Look at my Son. Look at my love. Look at how I’ve already paid for everything.

God has been so unfailingly faithful to us. How can we do anything but trust?