

Born in the House or of Abraham: The Promise of the Seed

Genesis 15:2 — "And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?"

Brothers and sisters, today we delve into the profound truth found in Genesis 15—specifically, how Abraham's concern for the seed points us to God's divine plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. But before we do, we must remind ourselves that God is our shield. Just as a shield in ancient battle protected soldiers from arrows, slingshots, and spears—seen and unseen dangers—God Himself is our Protector, our Cover, and our Defense.

The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 6:16, encourages us to take on the "shield of faith," which is vital in the spiritual warfare we face every day. But when we speak of God's protection, we also speak of His promise—His covenant, His word that cannot fail. And it is through this covenant that Abraham's concern about his seed becomes significant for us all.

In Genesis 15:1, the Lord reassures Abraham, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." This is no ordinary shield. It is the divine shield that guards against all dangers—the arrows of doubt, the snares of the enemy, and the fears that assail our hearts. Just as shields in ancient warfare could turn aside deadly blows, God's protection is perfect, impenetrable, and eternal. We read in Psalm 3:3, "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." This verse declares not only protection but also God's power to lift us when we are down. He is the shield against what we see and what we do not see.

Ephesians 6:16 in the KJV states, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Faith is our shield, but it is rooted in God's promises—truths that withstand fiery trials. God Himself is our shield, and His word is the shield that defends us from every attack.

Now, focusing on Genesis 15, we encounter Abraham's dilemma—his concern was not only about faith but also about the certainty of God's promise. Genesis 15:2 captures his human concern: "And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?" Now, within that concern lies a deep

question: How does God fulfill His promise when human impossibility looms? Abraham's worry was that since he had no biological heir, the promise of the seed would be fulfilled through his servant—Eliezer. That would be a logical conclusion in the flesh, but not in the divine plan.

In biblical terms, those born in the house—like Eliezer or Ishmael—represent natural, human-generated solutions, birth in the flesh. But God's promise is supernatural; it points to a seed that would come through Abraham's own body, the seed of promise. The Apostle Paul in Galatians 3:16 states, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." This means that God's promise of a "seed" is not merely biological but prophetic—pointing to Jesus Christ, the ultimate Seed of Abraham through whom salvation would come. Isaac was the child Abraham physically bore, but Isaac pointed to the greater spiritual seed: Christ, who is born of the Spirit.

In Genesis 16, Abraham and Sarah took matters into their own hands, and Ishmael was born—a child born in the house, born according to fleshly schemes. But God's covenant required a different path; it required faith in His impossible Word. Abraham's response was remarkable—he believed God. Genesis 15:5 recounts, "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." This act of faith was pivotal. And verse 6 declares, "And he believed in the

Genesis 15:6 says, "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness." Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness because he believed God's promise, even when it seemed humanly impossible. This faith is a demonstration of trusting in God's power to do what no man can do—conception of the miraculous through the Holy Spirit, just as the angel told Mary in Luke 1:35, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Abraham's believing in the impossible points us to the central message of salvation: that only God can bring forth life through a miracle. Human effort cannot produce the seed of salvation—that divine seed is Jesus Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin. It is God's way, and no other.

Jeremiah 32:27 declares, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" This verse is a divine challenge and reassurance. When Abraham questioned

the promise, God reminded him that nothing is too hard for Him. Our part is to believe the impossible and trust in God's divine timing. Abraham's faith in God's promise was counted to him as righteousness, and that same faith is necessary today. We must believe that God, who brought forth Jesus, can bring forth in our lives the divine promises and salvation that seem impossible. We cannot accept solutions born in the flesh—solutions that are human, natural, or worldly—because they are limited.

When Abraham asked God about his heir, God answered in Genesis 15:4-5, "And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir, but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." The key message: only the seed that comes directly from Abraham's own flesh and blood—by faith—would be the true heir of God's promises. Any other heir—like Eliezer of Damascus or Ishmael—was born in the house, born in the flesh. But God's promised seed would come through divine intervention, and that seed was Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:16 emphasizes this: **"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."** The spiritual principle remains: God's promise was fulfilled in Jesus, the true seed of Abraham.

Just as Abraham could have been satisfied with Ishmael—born naturally—many today accept solutions that are born in the house rather than trusting in God's divine plan. We may have relatives, children, or circumstances that seem promising, but God's ultimate promise is fulfilled through divine birth—by the Spirit, not by flesh. In Genesis 22:8, Abraham expresses this trust: "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." Abraham believed that God's provision is always perfect. Jesus is that provision for our salvation—God's Lamb, born of the Spirit, born of a virgin, and Lord of all. We, like Abraham, must refuse to settle for anything less than God's divine seed—Jesus Christ. Any other solution—any other "seed"—is secondary and only a shadow of what God truly promises.

Just as Abraham believed God's promise and acted in faith, we are called to trust in God's impossible promises. We are children of promise, born not in the flesh but in the Spirit. Galatians 4:28 tells us, **"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise."** Our confidence is that God is faithful to His Word. Finally, Hebrews 11:6 reminds us, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,

and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Our faith is rooted in the divine Word, and our hope is in the promised Seed—Jesus Christ—who alone can fulfill God's covenant.

Dear brothers and sisters, just as Abraham looked up at the stars and believed God's promise, so must we believe in His divine power to do the impossible. Do not settle for solutions born in the house—solutions that are fleshly. Do not settle for solutions born in the house—solutions that are fleshly, temporary, or insufficient. God's covenant is eternal, and His promises are yea and amen. The promise of the seed is not simply about natural descendants but about the spiritual fulfillment in Jesus Christ—our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Just as Abraham trusted God's promise and believed against all odds, we are called to the same faith—to trust in the divine seed that comes through God's miraculous work. When we believe and accept God's plan, we join with Abraham in righteousness, "counted to us for righteousness" because of our faith in His divine word. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." Let us, like Abraham, be fully persuaded that God's promises are true, and His power is able to accomplish what seems impossible.

Brothers and sisters, refuse to accept the "born in the house" solutions—the fleshly attempts, the human schemes. Elevate your faith to believe in God's divine seed, Jesus Christ, born of the Spirit, fulfilling every divine promise. Look towards the heavens just as Abraham did—trust that God's promise of the seed is fulfilled in Christ, and by faith, we are children of that promise. Remember, God is our shield—our protector—who ward off every attack of doubt, fear, and despair. And just as Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness, so our faith in God's divine seed makes us heirs according to the promise.