GENESIS 15 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FATH - (SERMON MP3)

Abram chose to resist the temptation of Sodom's riches in both chapters 13 and 14 of Gen.. In response, he received another vision of the

i. 15.1).	_ora. Goa
ers of the world, what natural fears do people like you and me face (Gen. 15:1)? What kind of questions lingel eay "no" to the world (Gen. 14:21-24)?	-
t Himself in (Gen. 15:1). He would be Abram's and What did each	• F
d on Abram's actions earlier in his life? Consider how God as a shield would have impacted Abram in (Gen. od as a rewarder would have impacted Abram in (Gen. 13:12; 14:22-23).	-
revelation of God have on your life? How have you said, "no thanks" to the offers of the world in favor of eld (Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 84:11-12) and rewarder (Hebrews 11:6)? What difference does that make in your ole with your discussion group.	C
on about his heir. Can you really blame him for that? What do you do when you don't see God's work? Sometimes we wonder if we are supposed to act instead of wait. We waver between hoping for a mal," realistic alternative. An infertile couple might assume that God's provision is adoption rather that ight). A person in financial crisis might assume God will deliver through the normal means of hard work. But God could also provide through a sudden, unexpected windfall by unusual means. We struggle ause God works in both ways. Perhaps we could say, faith isn't a matter of turning off our brains, but i ral, dramatic, mind-boggling miracles.	moving for supernatured defying meand a lot of knowing w
ension of knowing that God will intervene and fulfill his promises but wondering exactly how?	• F
l between "rational" solutions and supernatural interventions? Perhaps you could share an example of each in	• V y
nces of His promises (Gen. 15:2-3, 8)? Why or why not?	ls
examples of men or women who asked for reassurances? Check out (Judges 6:36-40; 2Kings 20:8-11; Luke am's question was faithless or faithful? Is it unbelief to ask for a sign?	
? Sometimes we wonder if we are supposed to act instead of wait. We waver between al," realistic alternative. An infertile couple might assume that God's provision is actight). A person in financial crisis might assume God will deliver through the normal mean ause God could also provide through a sudden, unexpected windfall by unusual mean ause God works in both ways. Perhaps we could say, faith isn't a matter of turning oral, dramatic, mind-boggling miracles. Sension of knowing that God will intervene and fulfill his promises but wondering exactly how the determinance of the promises and supernatural interventions? Perhaps you could share an access of His promises (Gen. 15:2-3, 8)? Why or why not? Sexamples of men or women who asked for reassurances? Check out (Judges 6:36-40; 2Ki)	moving for supernature defying me and a lot of knowing was also not

The Jews held that Abram's faith was the greatest of his many meritorious works that earned his righteous status before God. Rabbi Shemaiah (50 BC) wrote, "Our father Abraham became the heir of this and the coming world simply by the merit of the faith with which he believed in the Lord, as it is written: 'He believed in the Lord, and he counted it to him for righteousness." In contrast to this view, Paul asserted that Abraham was an example of someone who received righteousness by faith apart from works (Romans 4:1-25).

	Take a moment to read (Romans 4:18-22). Why did God account Abram righteous?		
•	Discuss how a sinner can ever be righteous before a holy God. Can he be found righteous by living to h Can he be made righteous through acts that serve as a means of grace (historic Roman Catholic view)? the basis of faith – faith in Someone who is righteous (historic Reformer's view of Sola Fide)?		
text, Go	royal covenants often began with the self-identification of the king and then a brief historical didentifies Himself in terms of His relationship to Abram. What might He say in your case: "I am the you respond to this kind of Lord?		
contract practice	nge as the rite in (Gen. 15:9-21) might seem to modern audiences, it was familiar to Abram. In and filing it with local authorities. It was common for two parties to make an oath and then seal the They would cut animals in half, walk down an aisle between the pieces like (Gen. 15:17), and they to me if I do not keep my oath and pledge." (Jeremiah 34:18-19) refers to a similar ceremony. Who passed between the animal pieces in the Gen. account? Why is that significant? Who was the keep	eir promises with this covenantal would invoke a curse like, "May it be	
•	Why is it important to us that God's promise here did not depend on Abram's obeying any laws (Roman	s 4:13-17)?	
	Why does God make this formal, legal covenant with his people in the first place? What does it tell you a	about His nature?	
•	What insights can you learn from the Genesis account about the New Covenant in Jesus (Matt 26:26-28)? What are the similarities and differences? What is the significance of God's promises sealed in the New Covenant with Christ's blood (as opposed to animal blood)?	PRAYER REQUESTS	
-	nned to postpone the fulfillment of His promise for nearly 700 years (300 from the until Jacob went down to Egypt, and 400 more until Moses led Israel out of Egypt).		
	According to (Gen. 15:16; Hebrews 11:13-16; 20-22) what purpose did this postponement serve?		
•	Paul memorializes this delay in (Romans 2:4). In that passage, what attributes of God stand behind God's stayed hand, and beyond that, what should it lead people to?		
•	In a similar way, God is waiting to fulfill the promise of His Kingdom. According to (2Peter 3:9), why is he waiting?		
•	What can we learn about God from these two texts that cax n help us in times when we have to wait?		