

Fulfilling God's plans

Genesis 15

Context: After rescuing Lot and refusing the riches of the king of Sodom in Genesis 14, Abram faces uncertainty about his future, but God reassures him with a powerful covenant promise.

When fulfilling the plans of God...

I. _____ your restless concerns (vs. 1-4)

- A. Abram shared his frustrations with God by saying, "I continue childless."
- B. God reassured him that "your very own son shall be your heir." Abram was 75 years old when God first made the promise that Abraham would be made into "a great nation." He would have to wait till he was 100 before having his son Isaac. (Genesis 21:5)

II. _____ His righteous credit (vs. 5)

- A. To continue reassuring Abram, God told him to step outside and look to the stars and count them. When Abram did, and believed in God, God credited righteousness to Abram. This passage is repeatedly mentioned in the New Testament as the key to our own salvation (Romans 4:3; James 2:23; Galatians 3:6). Like Abram, we also are saved by the grace of God through faith.
- B. God credits righteousness to us when we repent of our sins and place our complete trust in Jesus Christ. We are saved the same way as Abram, by faith in God and His plans. (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:9)

III. _____ in His reliable covenant (vs. 6-21)

- A. "The sign of ancient covenants often involved the cutting in half of animals, so that the pledging parties could walk between them, affirming that the same should happen to them if they broke the covenant." (John MacArthur)
- B. God was the only one to pass through the pieces of the animals, signifying that the promise was one of grace. Abram was asleep and contributed nothing to the agreement. Our salvation is also one of grace in which we can contribute nothing to earn it.