

A Four - Part Series

Part II

“God’s Presence In The Life Of Abraham: Brings A Sacrifice & A Covenant!”

Genesis 15:1-21

After these things the **Word (Logos)** of the **Lord** came to Abram in a **Vision (Theophany)**, **saying (Rhema)**, “Do not fear, Abram, **I AM a Shield** to you; & **Your Reward shall be very great!**” Abram said, “**O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless (posterity), and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? Since You have given no offspring (posterity), to me, one born in my house is my heir.**” Then behold, the **Word (Logos)** of the **Lord** came to him, **saying (Rhema)**, “**This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir (posterity).**” And the **Lord** took him outside and continued **saying (Rhema)**, “**Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.**” And **God** continued **saying (Rhema)** to Abram, “**So shall your descendants (posterity) be.**” Then Abram believed in the **Lord**; and **He (God)** reckoned it to him as righteousness. And **God said (Rhema)** to him, “**I AM the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land (heritage) to possess it.**” Abram replied, “**O Lord God, how may I know that I will possess it (land - heritage)?**” So the **Lord said (Rhema)** to Abram, “**Bring Me a (sacrifice): three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.**” Then Abram **brought all these (sacrifice)** to the **Lord** & cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a **deep sleep (trance)** fell upon Abram; and behold, terror & great darkness fell upon him. The **God said (Rhema)** to Abram, “**Know for certain that your descendants (posterity) will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.**” It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there **Appeared (Epiphany)** a **Smoking Oven** and a **Flaming Torch** which passed between **these pieces (sacrifice)**. On that day, the **Lord Made A Covenant With Abram, saying (Rhema)**, “**To your descendants (posterity) I have given this land (heritage), from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: the Kenite, the Kenizzite, the Kadmonite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Rephaim, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Girgashite, and the Jebusite.**” Genesis 15:1-21 (NKJV)

2 # Main Concepts Throughout This 4-Part Message

- 1) God’s Word (Logos) Is Recorded For Us In The Bible**
- 2) God Is Speaking (Rhema) Directly To Us Through His Word (Logos),
By His Spirit (Prayer), & By His Indwelling Spirit (Presence)!**

1) He also uses a variation on His Greatest Name

In each of these four passages based on the theme of the **“Great I AM!”**

- 2) But Most Important concept that I want you to understand
Is that God Is Always Speaking (Rhema)**

In each of these four passages!
The Main Idea I will be referencing here today & over the next three weeks is that:

**God Was Constantly Speaking To Abraham Back Then,
& He Is Constantly Speaking To Us Here Today!**

In this passage

Q: “What Does God Have To Say (*Rhema*) To Abram Back Then & To Us Today?”

A1: God Promises To Bless Those Who Are Faithful To Him By Giving Them A **Posterity** (*Children & Grandchildren*) & (*Relationships – Our Immediate Family, God’s Family, & God Himself*) Vs. 15:1-6

A2: God Promises To Bless Those Who Are Faithful To Him By Giving Them A **Heritage** (*Promised Land*): Now - *Israel & Our Land* & Later – *Promised Land Of Heaven* Vs. 7-8 & 13-16

A3: God Requires **Sacrifice** & The **Shedding Of Blood** So That He May Redeem & Forgive The Sins We Have Committed Against Him & Others! Vs. 9-16

A4: God Makes A **Covenant** With Us In Order To Establish **His Promises, His Faithfulness, & His Commitment** To Carry Out His **Plan** For Us! Vs. 17-21

Q: “What Was God Trying To Reveal To Abram Back Then, & To Us Today Through His Presence & His Words?”

A: His Eternal Plan For All Of Humanity!

I. God’s Eternal Plan Of “**Community & Fellowship**”

The Plan He Established Before He Created The Universe & Us

II. God’s Eternal Plan Has “**Salvation**” Woven Within It

Even Though He Knew We Would Not Remain Faithful & Fall From His Grace

III. All People Are Inherently Selfish & Choose Their Will & Their Desires Over God’s & Others.

They Commit Sin & Separate Themselves From God & Others

IV. Gods Eternal Plan Of “**Community, Fellowship, & Salvation**”

Includes All People On The Earth For All Time (Believers & Unbelievers, Jews & Gentiles)

V. God Has Been Speaking His Eternal Plan Of “**Community, Fellowship, & Salvation**”

Since The Beginning Of Time Through:

1) His Written Word – **Logos**

2) His Spoken Word – **Rhema**

3) His Creation – **Order & Design**

4) His Signs – **Miracles & Wonders**

5) His Angels – **Dreams, Visions, Appearance, & Revelation**

6) His People – **Actions & Words**

7) Himself - **Dreams & Visions (Theophany)**, Direct **Visitation & Revelation (Epiphany)**

VI. God Has Given Us All A Freewill To Choose How We Want To Respond To Him

And To His Eternal Plan Of “**Community, Fellowship, & Salvation**”

VII. God Always Keeps His Promises & His Word

He Is Always Faithful, No Matter What We Choose!

Q: “So When God Commanded Abram To Go & Obey What Was God Actually Asking Of Him?”

In Other Words:

Q: “What Was Abram Anxious About?”

Or

Q: “What Did Abram Need To Have Assurance Of?”

A1: He Needed To Know That God Would Keep His Promise To Give Him

A **Posterity** (*Children & Grandchildren*) &

(*Relationships – Immediate Family, God’s Family, & God Himself*)

A2: He Needed To Know That God Would Keep His Promise To Give Him

A **Heritage** (*Promised Land*): Now - *Israel & Our Land* & Later – *Promised Land Of Heaven*

Q: “What Did God Ask Of Abram Back Then,
In Order To Guarantee Him That He Would Keep His Promises?”

&

Q: “What Is God Asking Of Us Today,
In Order To Keep His Promises With Us?”

A1: To Offer Ourselves As A Living Sacrifice To Him & Others In Our Lives,
Through Our Acts Of Service!

A2: To Offer All He Has Given To Us To Possess & To Use As A Living Sacrifice Back To Him!

A3: To Offer Ourselves As A Living Sacrifice To Him & Others In Our Lives,
Through Our Sacrifice Of Obedience To Him & His Will For Our Lives!

A4: To Offer Ourselves As A Living Sacrifice To Him & Others In Our Lives,
Through Our Sacrifice Of Praise & Worship To Him For He Alone Is Worthy Of All Honor & Glory!

Q: “What Was The **Ritual & Requirements** Of Ancient **Sacrifice & Covenant** In Abram’s Day?”

A1: Each Participant Brought Their Half Of The Sacrifice

A2: Each Participant Prepared Their Half Of The Sacrifice

By Cutting The Sacrificial Animals In Two & Laying Them Out Side By Side On Adjacent Altars

A3: Each Participant Locked Their Arms Together

& Walked Between The Halves Of The Sacrifice Between The Altars

A4: Each Participant Pledged Their Faithfulness & Their Commitment
To Keep Their **Promise** – Their **Covenant** With The Other!

A5: Each Participant Pledged That The Other Could Cut Them In Two
& Sacrifice Them Instead If They Failed To Keep Their Covenantal Promise!

Q: “What Did Abram Do When God Asked Him To Bring His Sacrifice?”

A: He Was Obedient: **1)** He Brought His Sacrifice, **2)** He Prepared His Sacrifice,
& **3)** He Prepared Himself To Get Ready To Make His Pledge To God

Q: “What Did God Do In Response To Abram’s Obedience?”

A: God Was Faithful: **1)** God Offered Himself **2)** As The Sacrifice **3)** In Place Of Abraham!

A1: God Put Abram In A Trance

& Did Not Allow Him To Walk Between The Halves Of The Sacrifice Or To Make His Pledge!

A2: God Replaced Abram With Himself To Walk Between The Halves Of The Sacrifice!

A3: God Himself Pledged His Fidelity & Commitment To Keep His Covenantal Promise!

A4: God Himself Pledged That If He Did Not Keep His Promise,
Then Abram & All Of Us Could Cut Him In Two Instead!

A5: In An Act Of Holy Irony – God Himself - Not Only Pledged Himself
& Promised Himself As Payment In Lieu Of All Of Us,
He Also Gave Himself As The Sacrifice For All Of Us
& Allowed Himself To Be Torn In Two!

Here St. Paul Echo Down Through The Centuries This Morning!

But now the Righteousness of God apart from the Law is Revealed, being witnessed by the Law & the Prophets, even the Righteousness of God, through Faith in Jesus Christ, to All and on All Who Believe! For there is no difference; **for all have sinned & fall short of the Glory of God, being Justified Freely by His Grace through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom God set forth as a Propitiation By His Blood, through Faith, to demonstrate His Righteousness, because in His Forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His Righteousness, that He might be Just and the Justifier of the one who has Faith in Jesus.**

Romans 3:21-26

Here St. Paul One Last Time This Morning!

But Christ came as High Priest of the Good Things to come, with the Greater & More Perfect Tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His Own Blood He entered the Most Holy Place Once For All, having obtained Eternal Redemption. For if the blood of bulls & goats & the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the Blood of Christ, Who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without Spot to God, Cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God? And for this reason, He Is the Mediator of the New Covenant, by means of Death, for the Redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the Promise of the Eternal Inheritance. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into Heaven Itself, now to Appear in the Presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another, He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, Once at the End of the Ages, He has Appeared to Put Away Sin by the Sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, So, Christ was Offered Once to Bear the Sins of many. To those who eagerly Wait for Him He will Appear a Second time, Apart from Sin, for Salvation! Hebrews 9:11-15 & 24-28

Q

*“What Will Be Mine & What Will Be Your Response This Week,
To The Revelation Of God’s Incredible Gift Of His Only Son,
As Our Eternal & Perfect Sacrifice Written In The Covenant Of His Own Blood?”*