

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 15:1-10, 17-18

Ps 33:12-22 *"The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man."* (v13)

Hebrews 11:1-16

Luke 12:22-34

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life & light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Genesis 15:1-10, 17-18

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."² But Abram said, "O LORD God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, & the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"³ & Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, & a member of my household will be my heir."⁴ & behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."⁵ & he brought him outside & said, "Look toward heaven, & number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."⁶ And he believed the Lord, & he counted it to him as righteousness.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, & a young pigeon."¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, & 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 When the sun had gone down & it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot & a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹³ 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."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. If Abraham had "saving faith" (Hebrews 11:2; Genesis 15:6; Romans 4; Galatians 3:6,9) as did his descendants (v13), what promise were they awaiting? See Genesis 14:18-20; John 6:35, 8:12, 58, 10:9, 10:11, 11:25-26, 14:6, 15:1
2. Compare & contrast the calls to Abraham (*theophanies*) in Genesis 12:-8, 15:1-21, 17:1-8, 18:1-15 (see also Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16). Notice that 25 years elapse between 12:1 & Isaac's birth 21:1-3. Why do you think God recalls & renews his promise to Abraham so many times? How do the stories work together to paint a bigger picture?

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. Look back over your life- what kept you believing in God's promises (including forgiveness, new life, & salvation), even when their arrival seemed slow to you? Think deeper than merely "unanswered" desires & wishes. See *Small Catechism: Creed, Sacraments*, available bookofconcord.org
4. Notice that St. Paul quotes 15:6 above in Romans 4:9-11, 20-25. What do we learn about the proper interpretation of this verse (& others)? See John 14:26; 2 Timothy 2:15; James 2:23; Galatians 3:6-14; 2 Peter 1:19-21 How do things such as the creeds & *Small* & *Large Catechisms* help you make proper interpretations?

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. Sometimes Christian teaching is criticized as too propositional (think lecture points & topics) rather than narrative (think knowing the stories & seeing them modeled in everyday life). Of course, some of both are needed. How does seeing the Christian faith as an epic, real life, true adventure rather than a list of ideas make it easier to share with others?
6. V17 shows God as the guarantor of the covenant while Abram watches & receives what is promised. What does this idea of faith (& not a list of duties owed) add to #5?

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 14

08.10.25

Series: The Gospel on Every Page

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Jesus in the Book of Genesis

Promised Offspring

*The salvation promised in Genesis is the same today,
through the promised Christ child*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: “This man shall not be your heir;
your very own son shall be your heir.” (v6)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Keep awake & be ready, for you do not know on what day
your Lord is coming. (*Matthew 24:42, 44*)

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