

God created a people through whom the Messiah would come.

GENESIS 15:1-7

He Believed in the LORD

Abraham: The Father of All Who Believe (Romans 4:11)

GENESIS 12-14

Becoming a People and a Blessing for Others and Others

God is gracious to call us

shape us

use us and give us direction!

Journey on!

God is patient and provides His grace so that we can:

keep working, keep growing,

keep confessing & keep repenting.

We Are Brothers of the LORD God Most High.

Practice peacemaking & affirming one another in the LORD.

Genesis 12:1 “Now the Lord said to Abram,

“**Go** forth from your country,

And from your relatives

And from your father’s house,

To the land which I will show you;

2 And **I will make you a great nation,**

And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And so **you shall be a blessing;**

3 And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying,

“Do not fear, Abram,

I am a shield to you;

Your reward shall be very great.”

Genesis 15:2 Abram said, “O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.”

Genesis 15:4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

Genesis 15:6 **Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.** 7 And He said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying,

“Do not fear, Abram,

I am a shield to you;

Your reward shall be very great.”

Do not fear

1. God tells the patriarchs not to be afraid...
2. God is committed to protecting Abraham & God's people.
3. God makes promise after promise to His people.

Genesis 15:2 Abram said, “O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am **childless**, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Since You have given **no offspring** to me, one born in my house is my heir.”

Do not fear

1. The reality now is that Abram is childless & prayerful.
2. God had promised to give the country to Abram's offspring, but Abram has no offspring.

Gen. 26:18 Then **Isaac** dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them...

23 Then **he** went up from there to Beersheba.

24 The Lord appeared to **him** the same night and said,

“I am the God of your father Abraham;

Do not fear, for I am with you.

I will bless you, and multiply your descendants,

For the sake of My servant Abraham.”

Genesis 46:1 So **Israel** set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

2 God spoke to **Israel** in visions of the night and said, “**Jacob, Jacob.**” And he said, “Here I am.” 3 He said, “I am God, the God of your father; **do not be afraid** to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. 4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes.”

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! **Do not tremble or be dismayed**, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Isaiah 43:1 But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,
“**Do not fear**, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!
2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.”

Genesis 15:4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and **count the stars**, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

Count the stars

1. God says Abram’s descendants would be very numerous.
2. Can you imagine Abram looking into a clear Middle Eastern sky?

Genesis 15:6 **Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.** 7 And He said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

Then he believed in the Lord

1. Abram simply had to trust God and His Word.
2. Abram does trust God...He believed Yahweh.

Galatians 3:6 Even so **Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “**ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.**” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

Romans 4:3, 9, (11) & 22

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

...4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

...4:11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be **the father of all who believe** without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

...4:19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

James 2:20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Faith is NOT a bare acknowledgement or empty affirmation.
Belief is NOT a bare acknowledgement or empty affirmation.

Faith and belief are made possible **by grace**.

Faith is a deep, abiding **trust** in the loving, living **God**.
Belief is a deep, abiding **trust** in the loving, living **God**.

Faith leads to a pattern of life reflecting God.
Belief leads to a pattern of life reflecting God.

God's Glory

Gospel/Grace

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

Find your identity in God's grace, glory and call.

Practice a deep, abiding trust in the loving, living God.