

No Faith No Future

Genesis 15:1-6

A. Fear Will Spoil the New Year for Many

1. Fear is common to everyone. People fear many things.
2. Fear of death, heights, change, & public speaking head the list for many.
3. The list goes on & on. Some people live in fear all day every day.
4. In fact, fear was the first evidence of the Fall (Gen. 3:10)
5. Fear robs life of adventure and joy, bringing sadness instead of gladness.
6. Genesis 15 records a defining moment in Abram's walk with God.
7. Abram had obeyed God and experienced victory and blessing.
8. Yet the promise of a son remains unfulfilled.
9. God addresses Abram's fear in order to secure his future.
10. This passage teaches us an important spiritual principle: Fear threatens faith
11. When faith weakens, the future God promises becomes uncertain.
12. Without faith, there is no God-given future.

B. Note the First "Fear Not" in the Bible

1. We hear a number of *Fear Not*'s in Scripture.
2. In the beginning, the first was given to Abram, the man of faith
3. God speaks *after* Abram's victories, showing that success does not remove fear.
4. Fear and faith are opposites; as faith increases, fear decreases.
5. Sometimes, like Abram, we experience fear after a great victory.
6. Anyone remember Elijah after Mt. Carmel & encountering Jezebel?
7. This "*Do not be afraid/Fear not*" reveals Abram's inner struggle.
8. Fear threatens trust, and that in turn, weakens hope.
9. A promise was given to Abram to empower him to overcome his fears.
10. In Gen 12 we see the call of Abram had been accompanied by many promises.
11. Abram was promised new land, have many descendants & be a blessing.
12. He was promised protection from enemies for *him* and his family.
13. In today's reading, we see God reassures Abram with His presence & declares:
 - a. "*I am your shield*" — signifying God's protection
 - b. "*Your very great reward*" — God Himself, not merely His blessings
14. Fear clouds faith and blurs the future.

C. Note the Person Making This Promise

1. A promise is only as good as the person making it.
2. We would all have had promises made to us by people unable to keep them.
3. This promise is from the Lord, the one who made heaven and earth (Psa. 121:2)
4. He can do anything but fail (Jer. 32:17; Luke 1:37) & cannot lie (Titus 1:2)
5. The future is secure because the promise rests on the character of God, not the strength of Abram.

D. God Reaffirms The Promise and Enlarges The Vision

1. God corrects Abram's assumption.
2. The heir will come from Abram himself. It would be his child!
3. Without faith in God's word, the future becomes uncertain and unstable.
4. God invites Abram to look at the stars, & count them.
5. The promise of offspring is greater than Abram can measure, beyond counting.
6. God enlarges Abram's faith before fulfilling the promise.
7. Faith lifts our eyes beyond present limitations to see God's purposes.
8. The future depends on God's promise, not our plans.

E. Note How Faith Affects Our Future (vv. 4-5)

1. What if Abram had not dared embark on his adventure of faith?
 - a. There would have been no promised blessings for him and his family.
 - b. He would have missed out on life's greatest adventure.
2. Faith assured Abram of his future.
 - a. He would be led to the Promised Land.
 - b. He would have descendants who would be a blessing.
 - c. His name would be great and remembered ... and it is.
3. Consider the scope of these blessings (vv. 4-5).
 - a. He would have a son in his old age.
 - b. His descendants would be as the number of stars.
 - c. All God's promises fulfilled!

F. Note How Faith Affects Our Fellowship with God (v. 6)

1. Faith brought Abram into a right relationship with God.
 - a. He believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.
 - b. Abram, a sinner, was justified before God by faith.
2. What good news this is for you and me!
 - a. We are all sinners (Rom. 3:10-23)
 - b. Christ died to save sinners (Rom. 3:25; 5:8)
 - c. Like Abram, we are justified by faith (Rom. 4:2-5)
3. The faith that secured Abram's future is the same faith that secures ours.
4. Faith in God's saving promise that is fulfilled in Christ.

G. Conclusion

1. God meets us promising salvation (Jn 6:37) & peace (Matt. 11:28).
2. God's protection is given to those who belong to Him (Isa. 41:10).
3. The Lord Himself is the reward of those who believe (Gen. 15:1).
4. Are you an example of faith to your family, confident about your future?
5. Do you have fellowship with God through faith in Christ as your Saviour?
6. A future rooted in God begins with confidence in who He is.
7. Fear narrows the future; faith enlarges it.
8. God secures the future for those who believe His word.
9. Will you face the future through fear—or through faith in God's word?
10. No faith, no future. Big faith, big future. Faith in God secures what lies ahead.