

***The Blessing: A Study in Genesis 12-36***  
**Lesson 2 – Abram Believes**  
**Genesis 14-15**

**I. The War of the Kings – Rebellion in the Valley (Genesis 14:1-16)**

Chedorlaomer had been taxing the people for 12 years. In the 13<sup>th</sup> year the people of the Jordan valley rebelled by not paying the tribute and waited to see what would happen. In the 14<sup>th</sup> year, four kings came to raid the valley and took the people and all the food and goods of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abram took his 318 trained man as well as the trained men of his allies. They pursued them for over 150 miles. Abram divided his men against them by night. They pursued and defeated them, bringing back all the people and their possessions. Abram was obviously no stranger to military strategy.

**II. The Two Kings (Genesis 14:17-24)**

A. King of Salem – represents the Lord (Spirit)

Melchizedek – King and priest

“Blessed be Abram of God Most High,  
Possessor of Heaven and earth;  
And blessed be God Most High,  
Who has delivered your enemies  
Into your hand” (v. 19-20).

Abram gave him a tenth of all (v. 20b).

B. King of Sodom – represents the world (the flesh)

He offered all the plunder to Abram.

Abram’s response – (Genesis 14:22-24)

**III. The Promise Renewed (Genesis 15:1-5)**

A. Genesis 12:1-7 – The seven-fold blessing – blessed to be a blessing

B. Genesis 13:14-18 – Abram’s descendants would outnumber the dust of the earth

C. Genesis 15:1-5 – “I am a shield to you, your reward shall be very great”

“I am **thy shield**, and **thy exceeding great reward**. Literally, *thy reward, exceeding abundantly*,” (Genesis, H. D. M. Spence, Logos).

“Let saints learn how blind is human reason, and how feeble faith becomes when it tries to walk by sight; let them also notice and consider how sure are God’s promises, and how inexhaustible are God’s resources” (Genesis, H. D. M. Spence, Logos).

What are your life circumstances? Where are you not trusting God?

- Marriage
- Health
- Child
- Finances
- Future
- Friends

#### IV. Salvation (Genesis 15:6)

Abram believed. His faith was based on God’s Word. It was Hebrews 11:1 faith – “the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen.”

Romans 4:3, 9, 22-25

*<sup>22</sup> Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. <sup>23</sup> Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, <sup>24</sup> but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

Galatians 3:6-9

*<sup>6</sup> Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.*

#### V. God’s Covenant (Genesis 15:7-21)

God “cut” a covenant with Abram. He caused a deep sleep to come upon him. There was nothing Abram could do to ratify the covenant. God, alone, passed through the animal pieces declaring that He would suffer death if either of them

failed to uphold the covenant. This foreshadows the coming of God in the flesh through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Promised One of Genesis 3:15 would pay the penalty for our sin and the broken covenant.

“To honour this promise God would bring His people out of Egypt (Exodus 2:24), and His Son into the world (Luke 1:72, 73)” (*Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*, Derek Kidner, Logos).

“Jesus was crucified outside the city gate that we might be invited in. Jesus was thirsty that we might have rivers of living water flowing forth from our inner man. Jesus was stripped that we might be clothed in His righteousness. Jesus was forsaken that we might be accepted. Jesus died that we might live forever. Oh, dear friend, BELIEVE!” (*The Blessing*, p. 52)

## **VI. Abraham’s Journey to Spiritual Maturity**

It was Abram’s faith in God and His Word that led to the development of character that enabled him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. As faith grows, holiness is manifest.

*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; <sup>23</sup> 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 (James 2:21-23).*

Chart your own path to spiritual maturity.