

SESSION 9: ABRAHAM - THE REWARD OF FAITH

A. Reward of Faith

1. *Hebrews 11:6*
 - a. Faith pleases God
 - b. Faith believes that God rewards those who seek Him.
 - Note that the reward is not His blessings
 - The reward is the knowledge of God.
 - c. The only thing we are guaranteed in this life of faith is that we can know God.
2. *How was this expressed in the life of Abraham?*
 - a. The Lord met him at the critical moments of his life. (Gen. 15)
 - b. The Lord drew him into his work in prayer. (Gen. 18)
 - This is the first intercession of the Bible.
 - Abraham's prayer affected the outcome. (Gen. 19:29)
 - c. The Lord shared the deep things of His heart with Abraham. (Gen. 22)

B. The Covenant (Gen. 15)

1. The Lord was in control of Abraham's circumstances.
2. Fear concerning the possible reprisal for the rescue of Lot has Abraham thinking deep thoughts.

3. God comes to assure his heart knowing that his concern goes deeper than his own safety.
 - a. *What about the promise?*
 - It is no closer to fulfilment than when he started.
 - b. *Where is the heir?*
 - Look at the stars.
 - Abraham believed the Lord.
 - c. *How can I know that I will possess the land?*
 - Begins with a sacrifice
 1. Represented the price for failing in a covenant.
 - Included a prophecy about the time in Egypt
 1. Important to the people to whom Moses was writing.
 - Finishes with an appearance of God
 1. God alone passes through the animals.
 2. Covenant was not dependent on Abraham or any of his descendants.

Assignment:

The nation of Israel grows from the family of Jacob. His life becomes a picture of the experience of the nation in the Old Testament. Read Gen.25-32. Note how Jacob tries to manipulate God and how God brings this proud man to faith.