

Waiting

Harmony M.B.C., March 22, 2008; July 23, 2016
Robert P. Myers

Read **Genesis 15:1-7** as introduction.

The life of a believer on earth is one of waiting. We truly are campers here on earth waiting for the time when we will be settled in our eternal home. To help us in this wait, the Lord has given us the Holy Spirit which we are told in Eph. 1:14 is the down payment that we have in our possession until God fully brings us into our inheritance.

In our period of waiting, we wait to have a better understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ, of our God, of the purposes of God. We wait to see the Lord answer our prayers and we wait to see our labor for the Lord bring forth fruit.

There is a parallel in this process of waiting that we do which is typed by the interaction that Abram has with the Lord in the scene of our text. We want to look at this parallel and draw some lessons we can use during our wait for the Lord to complete our transformation and bring us into our full inheritance.

I. **Gen. 15:7** And he said unto him, *I am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

◆ The inheritance of God is clearly articulated by the Lord to His servants. In this scene, giving Abram the land as an inheritance stands for giving him everything he and his tribe could want or need to be blessed on earth. But it also represents an eternal inheritance as a type.

◆ **Mat. 19:29** – we inherit everlasting life

◆ **Mat. 25:34** - inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

◆ **1Pet. 1:4** - an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

◆ So, we are clearly told that we have an eternal inheritance. But I think the most comprehensive explanation about what we inherit comes from the words of our Savior in **Mark 10:30** **But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**

II. **Gen. 15:8** And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

◆ Even with God’s clear statements about the matter of our inheritance, we need proofs that we can get hold of. Proofs can be seen by faith.

- I had to go to the eye doctor this past week because my vision has gotten so blurry I can’t see things very clearly at all, and can’t even tell what some things are when I look at them.

In my eye exam, the Dr. had me look at some letters with my vision just like it is and tell him what I saw. Needless to say, I saw things in a distorted way and missed several. Then, he started asking me to look through various lenses and tell him what I saw. Through the right lenses I saw things clearly and could describe them correctly. Those right lenses are a good representation of the eyes of faith. When we have faith, the vision of our inheritance can be seen plainly. Anyone looking without faith cannot tell what that vision is.

◆ So, Abraham is asking the Lord to help him understand what faith is supposed to see.

◆ Now, while we may miss the fact of it, our next verse is the beginning of instructions from the Lord to Abraham about how he may know that he is to inherit. Let’s look at the next few verses with this in mind.

III. Gen. 15:9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

◆ To discover the kind of confirmation we want, to get answers from the Lord that clear up our ignorance and that gives us answers, obedience is the key.

◆ That obedience puts God first (“take me” etc.)

IV. Gen. 15:10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

◆ There must be a conscientious effort on our part to do what God says according to His order and pattern

- note the personal commitment in “he took unto him”
 - **Col. 3:23** And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily (with vigor of soul), as to the Lord, and not unto men;
- note the care and exactness of how he prepared the Lord’s offering

V. Gen. 15:11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

◆ We must guard against evil forces wrecking our commitment and dedication to doing things according to the Lord’s order.

- Paul said, to Timothy, (**1Tim. 6:12**) “Fight the good fight of faith...” Do we

ever ask ourselves what that fight looks like?

- It is a war against falsehood, compromise (personal and other), excuses (personal and other),
- Protecting spiritual order in our lives sometimes requires specific action

VI. **Gen. 15:12** And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, a horror of great darkness fell upon him.

- ◆ We may go through times of terror as we wait on the Lord.
- ◆ Life here on earth, as we wait for our eternal state, presents a lot of situations which truly can be horrendous. They are often that way when we find ourselves facing some crisis and we cannot feel the presence of the Lord with us. The description associated with Abram's experience here is a near-perfect type of exactly that kind of situation.

VII. **Gen. 15:13** And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

Gen. 15:14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

Gen. 15:15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

Gen. 15:16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.

- ◆ The confirming proof from God, for whatever faith questions we may have, may not come until after we come through a period of great emotional/spiritual trial. ("know of a surety" covers everything God tells Abram in these verses)
- ◆ This narrative by the Lord gives Abram everything he needs to know about the future of his chosen family.
- ◆ There is purpose in the way God has things unfold according to His timetable.
- ◆ Part of the timetable He has ordained is comprehended in that waiting we all go through
- ◆ He has things that will occur within a time frame that He will not have rushed.
- ◆ Things both good and evil must unfold according to His dictates.