

Promise & Covenant

- Created to give confidence to those entering an agreement to verify mutual sacrifices – honored.
- *“I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.”* (Gal. 3:15).
- The power of a covenant / promise based on the integrity of those who enter it.
- God’s integrity gives confidence to make all sacrifices for Him.
- *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Rom. 8:18*
- **MORE WE BELIEVE MORE SACRIFICES WE MAKE**

Trust in God's Integrity

- Eve fell into transgression because she doubted.
- God offers salvation to those who do not doubt.
- *All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. ...16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. Heb 11:13-16*
- Abraham was one of these people.

God was Glorified

- Abraham gave God glory and made righteous because he trusted the promises of God.
- *without being weakened in faith he considered his own body now as good as dead (he being about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Rom. 4:20-22*

The Greater Our Trust

- Abraham revealed the true power God's promise because he **NEVER WAVERED!**
- Once he heard: *“My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year,”* (Gen. 17:21).
- Heart was fixed and all doubt evaporated.
- He did not minimize the obstacles, but God's promise removed them all!
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; Prov 3:5*

Greater the Trust Greater the Glory we Give God

Stretching Promise to Breaking Point

- *Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, Gen. 17:19*
- All God's future promises were based on Isaac.
- *God tested Abraham, ... Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." Gen 22:1-2*

Abraham's Tests

- The love of a father for his son
- The taking of a human life.
- God's Promise Would Fail
- All his years of service would be in vain.
- Yet once again Abraham did not waver in unbelief, but strengthened in faith, gave glory to God.

Abraham's Faith and Trust

- The Hebrew writer summed up both the test and the means of trust — he did not waver.
- *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. Heb 11:17-19*
- Stretched to the absolute limit Abraham proved the full power of God's promise.

This is the Highest Glory

- We cannot offer God perfect works:
- *for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; Rom. 3:23*
- Though we might long for it, that door is forever closed to all.
- What else can we give? We long to give him great glory and honor as God & Creator.
- The more we trust His promises and never waver in unbelief, the more glory we give.

Didn't Waver at an Impossible Command

- At that moment God said “**NOW I KNOW YOU FEAR GOD:**”
- *And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Gen. 22:12*
- Fulfilling an impossible command (impossible only because we deem the sacrifice too high), it gives God glory because it proves our fear (awe reverence and respect).
- This is the living faith James described because it was a working sacrificing faith! (Jas 2)

God's was very Pleased

- God swore with an oath to keep His promise:
- *"By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." Gen 22:16-19*
- Because Abraham "obeyed My voice," in a great sacrifice to God, Abraham obtained the promise.

The Critical Application for Us

● *that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.* 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, ***after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*** Heb. 6:12-16

● Because Abraham believed God's promise and made the greatest sacrifices to receive it, God knew his fear and swore with an oath to give it.

● It was his "patient endurance" that brought this great praise and honor, so it will be for us!

Abraham the “Justified Friend” of God

- *Was not Abraham our father **justified** by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And **he was called the friend of God.** James 2:21-24*
- The trust and sacrifice brought justification and being made righteous.
- The trust and sacrifice proved to God that Abraham as His true friend willing to sacrifice all for Him.
- Many of God’s servants are “fair weather” friends.

The 2nd Application for Us

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself**, ... 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus **God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath**, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge **to lay hold of the hope set before us**. 19 **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul**, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, Heb 6:13ff

Our Father Abraham only Needed One

- Abraham only needed God's promise
- God wanted Abraham heirs (us – Gal 3:27-29) to have two.
- *show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath*
- *by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, **we might have strong consolation***
- Two Immutable things:
 - 1. the Promise: That's all Abraham & us really need
 - 2. the Oath: *“an oath is the end of all dispute”*
- Both of these things are strengthened: God can't lie

We Are Abraham's Seed

- If you “*were baptized into Christ,*” “*you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*” (Gal. 3:26-29).
- From that moment until the end of time: “*Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.*” (Gal. 4:28).

God gave Abraham to us and us to him

- We have two immutable things.
- By watching Abraham's faith strengthened by God's promise we have the first immutable thing.
- When God swore an oath, after Abraham passed his test, we have the 2nd immutable thing.
- Since God can't lie about these two unbendable and unbreakable things, we have the power to show the same courage as our father Abraham.

Like Abraham – We Too Feel

- *that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*
- *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus.”*
(Heb. 6:12, 19-20).
- Will your anchor hold in the storms of life when the winds unfold their