



“Blessed Assurance”
Are You a Confident Christian?
Genesis 15: 7-12

Assurance is found in a faith that is :

I. Practiced - “whereby shall I know” (vs. 7-9)

We remain attentive to:

- A. Revelation** – “And He said unto him”
- B. Remembrance** – “I am the Lord that brought thee”
- C. Religion** – “Lord God, ...shall I know”

II. Principled – “possessor of heaven and earth” (vs. 9-10)

We remain ambitious towards things :

- A. Excellent** – “heifer of three years old”
- B. Exacting** - “divided them in the midst”
- C. Exceptional** - “the birds divided he not”

III. Protected - “great darkness fell on him ” (vs. 11-12)

We remain alert to :

- A. Filth** – “fowls came down upon the carcasses”
- B. Fatigue** – “sun was going down, a deep sleep”
- C. Fear** – “an horror of great darkness”

Sentence Sermon:

“Obedience leads to Assurance while Disobedience leads to Doubt.”

Additional Verses

- *Exodus 20:2*
- *Leviticus 1:17; 5:7, 11*
- *Deuteronomy 32:11*
- *Hebrews 11:*
- *Judges 6:17, 36-40*
- *II Kings 20:8*
- *Isaiah 7:12*
- *I Samuel 26:12*
- *Psalms 23:4*
- *Genesis 2:21*
- *Matthew 13:19*
- *II Peter 1:16-19*
- *Romans 8:16*
- *Philippians 1:6*
- *I John 4:13; 5:13*
- *II Timothy 4:8*
- *II Corinthians 5:17*

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. How important is verse 7 to this passage? Why?
- 2. Why do you think “Lord God” is used by Abram?
- 3. Was Abram doubting God’s promises?
- 4. Why do you suppose God wanted only 3 year old animals?
- 5. Does God come across as particular about what He wants? Is He that way with you?
- 6. Why were the birds not cut in two?
- 7. What do the fowls that came down on the carcasses represent? What are some “fowls” in our lives?
- 8. Why do you suppose Abram fell asleep?
- 9. What was the horror of great darkness that fell on him? Do we have anything like that in our Christian experience?

INTRO:

Have you ever had doubts about your relationship with the Lord? Why do we have doubts? Has God been faithful? Have we been unfaithful?

V. 7

- And HE said unto him = God talks to Abram
- I am the Lord = Lord = “Jehovah” not Adonai
- that brought thee out of the Ur of the Chaldees = I have proven my faithfulness in the past and I am still the same today. (Cp. With Moses being told in Exodus 20:2)
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- To give thee this land = demonstrates purpose...God is working a plan...His plan...for His good and our good.
- To inherit it = from whom shall Abram inherit it? ...YES, from the Lord...just like we inherit eternal life...how and from whom...by God’s doing and from God.

V. 8

- And he said = Abram responds to God with a question...It is ok to ask questions of God ...he is not rebuked.
- Lord God = Adonai Jehovah = Elohim to the Jewish reader...respect in approaching God

- Whereby shall I know = Abram seeks clarity and understanding (theologically)
- I shall inherit it = Abram wants assurance of the inheritance...God will give it to him only as he obeys....Obedience leads to Assurance and Disobedience leads to Doubt.

V. 9

- And He said to him = God responds to a request for understanding and assurance.
- Take me an = you do this for me and I will show you something you will not forget.
- FIVE ACCEPTABLE ANIMALS FOR SACRIFICE – cp Leviticus 5:7, 11 (Hits them all)
 - An heifer of three years old
 - A she goat of three years old
 - A ram of three years old
 - A turtle dove = live to 3-5 yrs in the wild “peace”
 - A young pigeon = live to 3-5 yrs in the wild “perservance” and “security”

V. 10

- And he took unto him all these = Abram did what God said for him to do
- Divided them in the midst = cut them in 2 (Half in two ...Cajun)
- Laid each piece one against another = cp. V.17 He cut the animals into two pieces and laid the halves across from one another with a path made between.
- But the birds divided he not = killed but did not cut...cp. Leviticus 1:17
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V. 11

- And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses = indicates the animals were dead, indicates this is daytime, indicates the event happened in the open
- Fowls = could be seen as interference with the plan...but not successful interrupting the final result. (cp Matthew 13:19 Parable of the Sower where the Satan is portrayed as the bird that snatches away the Word of God).
- Abram drove them away = he was serious about his assignment and stewardship of God's plan.
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V. 12

- When the sun was going down = dusk and end of the daydoes the sun really go down? No...it only seems to ...does this mean the Bible is in error...no it is being explained to humans in common language.
- A deep sleep fell on Abram = same word as in Genesis 2:21 when Adam was asleep...he fell asleep with the help of divine Sominex....both times it is clear that life will be created and enjoyed because of what God does not man because he is dead asleep. (cp. I Samuel 26:12)
- An horror of great darkness = God impressing upon Abram the extent and depth of the difficulties his descendents would experience. 400 yrs in Egypt...today's hatred of the Jewish people
- Fell upon him = overwhelmed him ...Psalm 23:4 would have been good for Abram to meditate on.