

# Genesis 15: How a Sinner is Declared Righteous

In this passage, God establishes a covenant with Abram and declares him to be righteous when Abram believes the promise of God to give him a miraculous child to bless the world. The passage stands in stark contrast to everything come before it, because since the fall sin had been distorting and destroying the world. This passage is the climactic moment of God's beginning to redeem the world.

In review, we saw in this passage...

## **The beginnings of redemption.**

The covenant God makes with Abram in this passage, and the promises in chapter 12 that this covenant confirms, clearly lay out God's plan to redeem his creation from our sin. The plan is in three parts:

1. God will give Abram a miraculous son who will be the firstborn of a chosen people of God. God will use this son and these people to make his name great in the world and redeem the world from sin.
2. God will give his people a land where they can dwell in peace.
3. God will live among his people, forever their God.

Through these things, God brings about redemption from sin for his creation.

## **The beginnings of faith.**

In verse 6 of chapter 15, we see that Abram believed God, and God counted it to him as righteousness. From this, we see that faith comes in response to the word of God. So, seek after the word of God and ask God to give you faith to believe it.

We can also see in this that God is able to justly count sinful people as righteous through faith in his word. This matters for us, since we are sinful but have been given the Word of God in Christ. If we believe in him, God is faithful to his promise and will count us as righteous and count us among his people.

## **The beginnings of the people of God.**

Lastly, we see in verses 1-6 in this passage the promise of a miraculous child to bless the world, and we see the fulfillment of that promise in the following chapters of Genesis—God gives Isaac to Abraham, even though he and Sarah are past childbearing age. Isaac, then, is the miraculous firstborn of the people of God. The rest of the people of God would come through him, all of them “children of promise.”

***In all of these things, we can see the whispers of Jesus' name.*** Jesus is the one who will come to redeem God's people. He is the Word come to us, in which we might believe and be counted as righteous, and he is an even greater fulfillment of God's promise to give Abraham a miraculous child to bless the world. Because of our redemption in Christ, God dwells among us by the Spirit, and we go to a promised, peaceful land in the new Jerusalem.