

Genesis 15 The Seeds of Faith

Genesis is the book of beginnings. It's where we read of creation, of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood which could have almost been the end but for the grace of the Creator providing for salvation and new beginning.

It is also where we read of God's initiative of choosing and saving a people for Himself, particularly blessing Jacob and his somewhat dysfunctional family as an exercise in grace, not to mention longsuffering patience!

But actually the story begins with Jacob's grandfather...

It seemed impossible, a ludicrous suggestion, that this elderly couple could now suddenly have a child. They had been unable to have children up to now. Abram was wealthy but he and his wife Sarah had no family to carry on his name or inherit his possessions.

God chose to show grace to Abram and promised him not just a son, but descendants as numerous as the stars, and the land of Canaan for them to inhabit.

Improbable to say the least!

But Abram chose to believe God's word, unlikely as it seemed. Not only was the promise fulfilled some years later in the birth of son Isaac, grandsons Jacob and Esau and the development of the nation of Israel from the tribes fathered by Jacob's twelve sons, but significantly *God was pleased*.

V 6 is the key: 'Abram believed the Lord and He credited it to him as righteousness.' Centuries later the Apostle Paul would discuss this in detail in the New Testament, Romans 4.

Abraham, as he became known, was the prototype *believer*, a flawed human being who responded to God's grace with *faith* and subsequently received blessing for himself and his household.

Those who follow his example and trust in Jesus, God's living 'Word', can expect no less!