

peace; you shall be buried in a *good old age*.¹⁶ And *they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.*”

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a *smoking fire pot* and a *flaming torch* passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.” (Cf. 1 Kings 4:20-21)

VI. We Look Back & Look Forward (Phil. 2:1-8)

Hebrews 12:1-4, 11

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, *so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted*.⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ...

¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, **but later** it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Genesis 14-15
Grace, Faith & God's Kind Encouragement
March 21, 2010
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Do You Need Encouragement?

Philippians 2:1-2

So if there is any *encouragement in Christ*, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy...

Key Idea

Hear God's encouragement to Abram. Let us fix our full attention on what he has done in the past and what he will do in the future.

II. The Beginning of Lot's Folly (14:1-16)

Genesis 13:12; 14:12 (2 Peter 2:7-8)

¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and *moved his tent as far as Sodom*.

¹² They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, *who was dwelling in Sodom*, and his possessions, and went their way.

III. Setting Your Hope on God (14:17-24)

A. Walking by Faith

Genesis 14:17-20 (Cf. Hebrews 7; Psalm 110)

¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, *the king of Sodom* went out to meet him ...¹⁸ And **Melchizedek** *king of Salem* brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, “*Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;*²⁰ *and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!*” And **Abram gave him a tenth of everything**.

1. Melchizedek a “Type” of Christ
2. Why Tithe?

B. Hope in the Lord not Riches (13:13)

Genesis 14:21-23

²¹ And the **king of Sodom** said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’”

1 Timothy 6:17 (Cf. 1 Timothy 6:2-19)

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor *to set their hopes on* the uncertainty of riches, but *on God*, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

IV. God Our Gracious Shield (15:1-6)

A. God’s Reassurance

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things *the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision*: “Fear not, Abram, **I am your shield**; *your reward shall be very great.*” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for *I continue childless*, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And **he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**

B. Reckoned Righteousness

Romans 4:3-5

³ For what does the Scripture say? “*Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.*” ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but **believes in him who justifies the ungodly**, his faith is counted as righteousness...

V. Kind Reassurance (15:7-21)

A. The Cry of Faith (Mark 9:24 – Help my unbelief!)

Genesis 15:7-8

⁷ And he [the Lord] said to him, “*I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.*” ⁸ But he [Abram] said, “O Lord God, *how am I to know that I shall possess it?*”

B. The Royal Grant

1. Cutting a Covenant

Genesis 15:9-10

⁹ He [the Lord] said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ And he [Abram] brought him all these, ***cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other.*** But he did not cut the birds in half.

2. Consider Israel’s Vantage Point

Genesis 15:12-

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, *and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.* ¹⁴ **But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve,** and *afterward they shall come out with great possessions.* ¹⁵ As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in