

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Undiminished Promise

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 13

Theme: Rest assured that we will receive what God has promised because God is the one protecting it

Introduction: Many of the promises we encounter in our daily lives lead to our disappointment. Other people fail us, and we fail others. But God's promises never fail and his word never disappoints. He is always faithful to accomplish what he promises. We may think that our trying circumstances mean that God's promise is failing; but in the story of Abram we find repeated reminders of God's promise.

Here are 3 steps to gospel certainty through Abram's story in Gen 13:

1. Strife arose within the household of promise (1-7)

Abram left Egypt after the famine and returned to the Negeb, with Lot. There the Lord blessed them. This is one instance of the repeated theme of God delivering his people out of Egypt as a symbol of salvation from sin.

As the Lord blessed Abram, and Lot, they both grew rich and both men had great flocks. Their blessing brought their herdsmen into conflict over land and water.

Abram's reaction will show the nature of his faith in God and his promise

2. And the attempt at reconciliation went wrong (8-13)

As they survey the land, Abram and Lot have a choice. As the paterfamilias, Abram has first choice. Instead of picking, he gives Lot his choice of lands (north or south).

Lot chooses to go east instead, rejecting Abram's counsel. He sees the lushness of the Jordan Valley and decides that his best future is away from Abram and his God.

Lot was choosing the world and its values over the Lord and his. He was choosing to reject Abram and his promise in order to strike out on his own.

3. But through it, the promise remains undiminished (14-18)

After Lot leaves, the Lord reiterates his promise to Abram and calls him to faith. He tells him to lift up his eyes and he promises the entire land to his descendants.

The Lord was also separating Lot from Abram. Lot was not to be a heir of the promises, but that would come through Abram's own children.

In Jesus Christ, we have even greater promises that are fully certain. We can rest in him and in his grace.

Questions:

1. Are you resting in Jesus and what he's done for you?
2. How would your life differ if you were resting in him more?
3. Where do you tend to look for answers and comfort?