



READ: Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

ENTER THE STORY:

God made some BIG promises to Abram in chapter 12, and today we are seeing God give Abram a little bit more detail. God takes Abram outside and has him gaze up at the beautiful night sky full of twinkling stars and tells him to count the stars if he can because that is how many offspring he will have.

Have you ever tried to count the stars? It's impossible, isn't it? That's the point! God wanted Abram to know that he would have so many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and so on, that it would be impossible to count them.

We've seen this word "offspring" before, haven't we? In Genesis 3:15, God said that one day, an offspring from Eve's family line would crush the head of the serpent and defeat him forever. But remember, that word is actually referring to **ONE SPECIFIC MALE**. Is it Isaac? Yes and no. Isaac would be the **FIRST** of Abram's descendants with Sarai, but God's promise was much bigger than one descendant. Galatians 3:16 shows us the **REAL** promise God is making Abraham. "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ."

Who is the special offspring God promised to Abram? Jesus! It's always been about Jesus!

It started with the promise of the Serpent Crusher, and now God continues that promise with Abram. This, friends, is what Abram believed. A single, future descendant that would come through his family and bless the entire world (Genesis 12:3). This is what Abram's faith rested on, and his faith in that special someone was "credited to him as righteousness!" Abram's legal status in heaven was changed and God gave him righteousness because of it!

When Jesus came to earth as a baby boy, those blessings were shared with everyone, and that includes us!!

In order to be saved today, we look back into the past and put our faith in the cross and what Christ accomplished for us with his death and resurrection. Abram had to put his faith forward into the future, but his faith still centered on that special seed that would come through his line...Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Savior.

Everyone from the history of time has been saved by faith through the grace of God! Everyone.

PRAY: Lord, your plan to send Jesus through Abram's family to bless the whole world is amazing, and we are so thankful. Please help us have faith like Abram and always believe your covenant promises! May we see these stories with new eyes over the next few weeks as we celebrate the Advent of Jesus Christ as a baby. Amen.