

BY FAITH

SEEING THE UNSEEN

THE IN BETWEEN TIMES

Genesis 15:1-21

After reading the passage together, discuss the following questions:

1. Sometimes God does things suddenly. His actions can surprise us. Think, for example, of the time when Peter was released from prison by an angel. He shocked his companions by coming to the prayer meeting at which they were praying for his release (Acts 12). Have you ever had God surprise you suddenly with His blessings? Please share your experience.
2. Sometimes God works slowly. Pastor Tom used the term “in between times” to describe those periods in our lives when everything seems to be at a standstill. We feel like all we can do is wait. Sometimes we are not even sure what we are waiting for. Have you ever experienced a period in your life like this? Please explain.
3. Abraham waited approximately 25 years for the fulfillment of God’s promise of a son. Why do you think God delays the fulfillment of His promises for so long, sometimes? What do you think God wants to accomplish in our lives during these waiting times? What have you, personally, learned in one of these waiting times?
4. Our passage shows that God wants us to trust that He will work all things for our good in our lives. What kinds of things can we actually trust God for? What should we expect and not expect as we wait for God’s plans for us to unfold?
5. In verse 17, we are told that after Abraham had cut several animals in half and laid them out on the ground, a burning torch and a smoking fire pot (symbolizing God’s presence) passed through them. God did this as a sign of His commitment to His promises.
 - a. God alone passed through the animal pieces. He did not ask Abraham to walk through them, as was customary when covenants were made in that day. What does this imply about our part in our relationship to God and His part?
 - b. Pastor Tom explained that a person who made a covenant as described in this text was saying, “May I be cut in half like these animals if I am not faithful to my promises.” God, who passed through the animal pieces, did indeed experience death many years later, in the Person of the Son, so that He could keep His promises to us. In what areas of your life now do you see yourself having difficulty trusting God’s promises? What do you think God might be telling you through this passage?