

Sermon Notes: The Beginning of Redemption – Genesis 15-16

Introduction

- Genesis is the beginning of God's story, which is about _____.
- Last week, Abram took two steps forward, but today he takes _____.
- Waiting is one of the hardest things we do, and when we don't see _____, we are tempted to take _____ into our own hands.

I. God's Promise to Abram (Genesis 15:1-6)

- Abram is tempted to listen to the _____ in his own head, not the _____ of the _____.
- God reassures him by telling him to look at the _____.
- "And he _____ the Lord, and He counted it to him as _____."

II. The Sign of the Covenant (Genesis 15:7-21)

- Abram asks, "How am I to know that I shall _____ it?"
- God instructs him to bring _____ different animals for a covenant ritual.
- The smoking fire pot and flaming torch symbolize God's _____.
- God takes full responsibility for fulfilling His promise: "I _____ do it."

III. The Danger of Impatience (Genesis 16:1-6)

- Sarai, unable to have children, suggests that Abram have a child with _____.
- Abram listens to the voice of _____ instead of God.
- Sarai's great idea has led to _____ and _____.

IV. Hagar in the Wilderness & God's Mercy (Genesis 16:7-16)

- The angel of the Lord finds Hagar and tells her to return and that God will _____ her offspring.
- She calls God, "The God who _____ me."
- The name Ishmael means "God _____."

V. Application: Why Does This Matter?

1. What do we learn about God's character?
 - God is a _____ Maker and _____ Keeper.
 - God _____ and _____ His people.
2. What do we learn about human nature?
 - One of our common sins is _____ and taking matters into our own hands.
 - Sin doesn't just affect us, it affects _____.
3. How does this point us to Jesus?
 - Justification comes by _____ alone.
 - God's covenant-keeping foreshadows Christ's _____ work.
 - Salvation is by _____, not by works.
 - The good news: God is _____, even when we are unfaithful.
 - Just as He kept His covenant with Abram, He has made a greater covenant through _____, a promise of salvation.