

Foundations 2.3: Covenant Confirmation, God's Faithfulness, Justice, and Mercy

Genesis 18, July 2, 2023

*God demonstrates to His covenant partners that He is **faithful, just, and merciful**. He **guards and nurtures His covenant** with them by **strengthening their faith**; confirming His promise so that their own faith would grow towards a more complete maturity.*

God's covenant promise to Abraham was blessings on blessings: Abraham was to be blessed, the nation that he fathered was to be blessed, and the world would be blessed by them.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

After the Lord accepts Abraham's sacrifice of hospitality, He confirms the covenant promise with Sarah.

God's faithfulness is absolute. It is not based on our ability or faith. He understands our limitations. ***"For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust."*** (Ps 103:14)

"Even any ability to be faithful to Him is of Him."

GOD IS JUST

The Lord next order of business was to inspect the wicked city of Sodom

- God's plan for Abraham was to propagate justice, culminating in Jesus's work (v19)
- God hears the outcry, does not hastily judge (v21)
- God is the supreme judge of the world (v25)
- God must punish the wicked (Ch 19)

GOD IS MERCIFUL

Mercy is compassion, forgiveness, and leniency shown toward someone who is deserving of punishment, or undeserving of benefits.

*"Who is a God like you, **who pardons sin and forgives the transgression** of the remnant of his inheritance? **You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.**"* (Micah 7:18)

- God mercifully confirmed the covenant promise to Sarah despite her weak faith and sin
- God mercifully tended her faith
- God sought to teach Abraham what pure mercy looks like: He agreed to save a city full of wicked people for the sake of a very few righteous.
- The example of Abraham's prayer, interceding for the righteous, points ahead to Jesus

God is Faithful, Just, and Merciful.

God's covenant to Abraham was to bless the world through Christ...

... and consequently to bless the world ***through us, the body of Christ.***

Partake in the covenant: follow the Father's example:

Deal justly with each other, have mercy on each other, and work out your faith in action.