

Sunday 17th September - Sermon Notes God's Big Story – Covenant

To understand the fabric of Biblical revelation we have to understand the nature of God's relationship with his people as expressed through Covenant commitment.

- What is the most familiar expression of Covenant relationship in our society today?

In Abraham's day, 'Covenant' is the very fabric of society, it is what makes society work. If you saw a man with a scar on his wrist you would be wary as you would not know who his covenant partner might be – it could be the King!

The nature of Covenant is that it is a binding agreement between two persons (or tribes) making one what was previously two and in which all the resources and possessions are available to the other party.

Read Genesis 15:1-21 God's Covenant with Abram.

V3 – Can you feel the emotion behind the accusing tone of Abrams words: 'You have given me no children..' Childlessness amongst many other things can cause resentment, bitterness and deep disappointment.

- What causes you to experience these emotions? Can you recall a time when you experienced deep disappointment with God (perhaps you still are feeling that)? Can you share it with your group?

Read Psalm 6:3, 6 and Psalm 13.

- Can you identify with the pain expressed by David?
- How do you deal (process) disappointment with God and move beyond it?
- Perhaps you are still in that place of seeking to process it, how can others encourage you through this 'valley'?

God makes a promise to Abram v5, but clearly Abram wasn't content with a promise he was fishing for something more ('How can I know..'v8). He wanted a Covenant, a binding agreement, confirming the promise already made.

If the 4 aspects of Covenant are:

- sacrifice in blood,
- an exchange taking place,
- a change of name
- a scar

Where do we see this happening for Abram?

Where do we see these aspects taking place in the New Covenant God has made with us in Jesus?

What does it mean for us today to know that God has committed himself to us in Covenant? That He is a Covenant making/keeping God?

Pray for one another to be renewed in faith understanding more fully the commitment God has made towards a relationship with us.

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