

SERMON NOTES
May 2, 2010
T. Don Guthrie, preaching

High Anxiety: Why Abraham's Faith is Such Good News
Genesis 12:1-4a; 15:1-16; 17:1

Galatians 3:7 "...those who believe are children of Abraham."

High anxiety...real faith

- A Personal God (12:1)

- A Path (12:1)
Luke 17:10

- Promises (12:2-8)

- Problems
 - * Chapter 12 – Egypt
 - * Chapter 15 – Anxiety over no heir
 - * Chapter 16 – "the Ishmael alternative"

"Deep rooted anxiety is part of the human condition. It is not neurotic because it is ineradicable and no therapy can take it away."
--Karen Armstrong (The History of God)

Abram believed the Lord and He credited it to him as righteousness."
(Genesis 15:6)

- A Practical Question (15:8) – "How can I know?" (Mark 9:24)

- A Picture (15:9-18)

- Peace ! (17:1)

- A Particular/Universal God (15:16) – "Sins of the Amorites"

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Call of Abram

- ¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.
- ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
- ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
- ⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Genesis 15

God's Covenant With Abram

- ¹ 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. "
- ² But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."
- ⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
- ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
- ⁷ He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."
- ⁸ But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"
- ⁹ So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."
- ¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.
- ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.
- ¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

Genesis 17

The Covenant of Circumcision

- ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty ; walk before me and be blameless.