

# Genesis 15

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## SERMON NOTES

### Genesis 15

The covenant-making, covenant-keeping God of the Bible

#### Can we know anything about God?

- Theological epistemology
- What can we know about God, how can we know it, and with what level of certainty can we know it?

#### There are basically two options we have to learning anything about God:

1. Human discovery
2. Divine revelation

*“The fact that God is infinite and we are finite does not make finite knowledge of the infinite impossible.”*

- R.C. Sproul, John Gerstner & Arthur Lindsley; *Classical Apologetics*

#### Three ways in which God has revealed Himself:

1. General revelation of creation
2. Written Word of God
3. The Living Word of God

#### God speaks throughout the Bible:

- Word of the Lord: 257x
- Word of God: 47x
- God said: 46x
- Lord said: 234x
- God spoke: 12x
- Lord spoke: 133x

*“If your God never disagrees with you, you might just be worshipping an idealized version of yourself.”*

- Tim Keller

## Genesis 15

The covenant-making, covenant-keeping God of the Bible

1. A command
2. A commitment
3. A covenant promise
4. A curious paradox

*“That the Old Testament represents God chiefly as angry Judge and vicious Warrior is a false stereotype. While these images are not absent, they are more than balanced by striking portrayals of God as Lover or Husband, infatuated with Israel beyond all reason or deserving. God is not too proud to grieve terribly over Israel’s unfaithfulness, nor to be giddy over her return home.... [This covenant’s] primary quality is love at the highest pitch of intensity.”*

- Ellen Davis, *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*

*“A contract is a transaction. A covenant is a relationship. Or to put it slightly differently: a contract is about interests. A covenant is about identity. It is about you and me coming together to form an ‘us.’ That is why contracts benefit, but covenants transform.”*

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

*“Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God.... Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God’s own commitment, that the best is yet to come.”*

- J.I. Packer