

What do I need to remember when I am fearful of the future?

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” Genesis 15:1 (ESV)

God is my shield.

But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. Psalm 3:3 (ESV) (See also Psalm 18:2; 28:7; 84:9, 11; 91:4)

God is my reward.

Why did Abram struggle with doubt?

1. He didn’t understand how God would give him a son.

But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” Genesis 15:2–3 (ESV)

What is the difference between doubt and unbelief?

Doubt — Doubt is trusting God’s word as true but having no idea how God could accomplish it.

- Thomas
- Mary

Unbelief — Unbelief is having no idea how God can keep his word so you walk away and call God a liar.

And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number

them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Genesis 15:4–5 (ESV)

Respond to my doubts with faith in God.

And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6 (ESV)

Romans 4:3

(Speaking about Abram) Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Romans 4:20–24 (NIV)

Galatians 3:6-9

just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness?” Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:6–9 (ESV)

James 2:23

You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. James 2:22–24 (ESV)

2. He didn’t understand how God would give him land.

And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove,

and a young pigeon.” And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
Genesis 15:7–11 (ESV)

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” Genesis 15:12–16 (ESV)

Sometimes God’s plan involves **long delays**.

Sometimes God’s plan involves **suffering**.

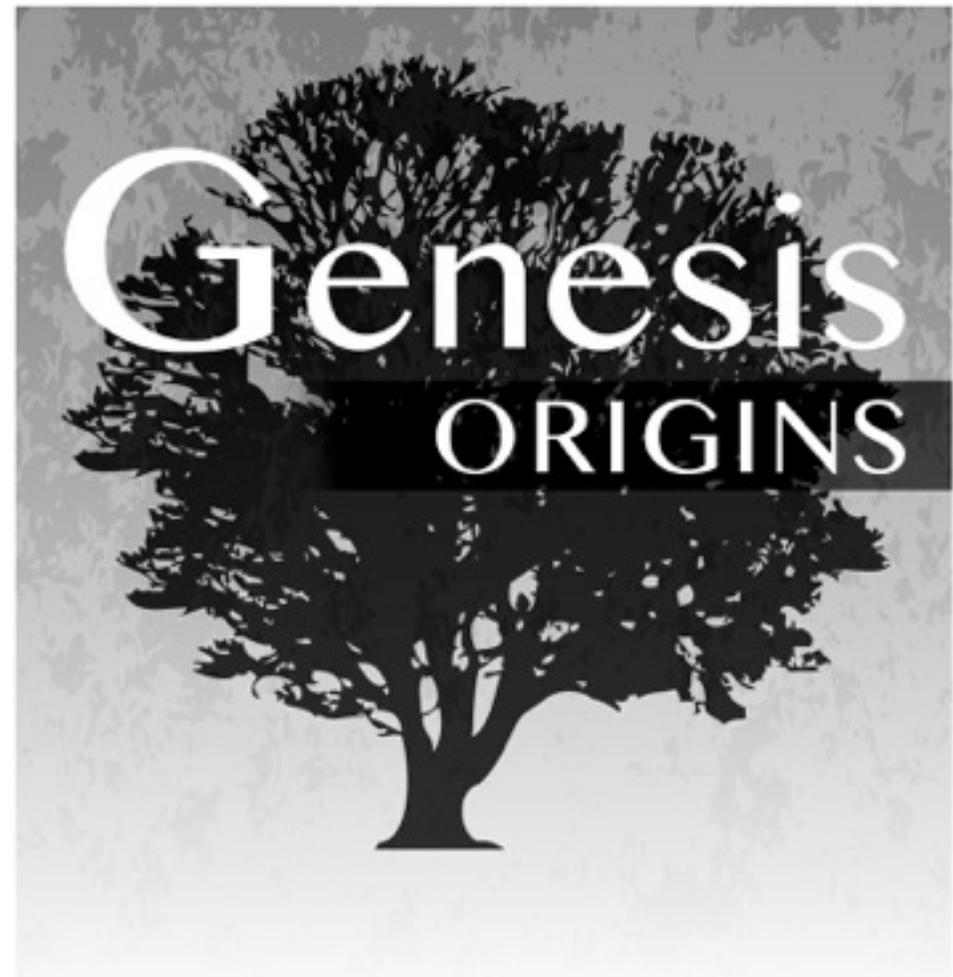
Sometimes God’s plan involves **patience** before judgment.

God guarantees to keep his word.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.” Genesis 15:17–21 (ESV)

Meet doubt with faith.
Remember God promises to keep his word.

January 24 — [Genesis 16 - When should I ignore my wife?](#)
January 31 - [Genesis 17 - The Covenant of Circumcision](#)



Genesis 15 — Doubt



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