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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Getting Ahead of God
Genesis 15 – 18:21
Series: Genesis – The Story of Us All

The Story of Us All

- ❖ The Bible in general, and Genesis in particular, presents a unique and universal worldview.
- ❖ The worldview presented in the scriptures is dependent on revelation rather than discovery.
- ❖ The Bible in its entirety, including Genesis, is about God's redemption of mankind and the renewal of all things in Christ.

Luke 24:27 (ESV) — 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (See also, John 5:39-40; Acts 8:26-35)

Central Passage

Genesis 17:17–19 (ESV) — 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."

Central Thought: In a hyper-connected world of immediate communication and instant gratification, God regularly calls us to wait for him to do his work his way.

- ❖ Like Abraham, our simple trust (faith) in God's word is the foundation of our right standing (righteousness) with God.

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

*Romans 4:23–25 (ESV) — 23 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. **It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.** (See also, John 3:16, Romans 10:9)*

- ❖ Like Abraham, we are tempted to listen to the voices of doubt or human reason and attempt to do God's work our way.

*Genesis 16:2 (ESV) — 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." **And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.***

*Matthew 17:5 (ESV) — 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**" (See also, Matthew 7:24-27)*

- ❖ Like Abraham, we may receive God's "No" to our human plan, so that, we can receive his divine "Yes" that leads to our growth and his glory.

*Genesis 18:13–14 (ESV) — 13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' 14 **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."*

Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV) — 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.