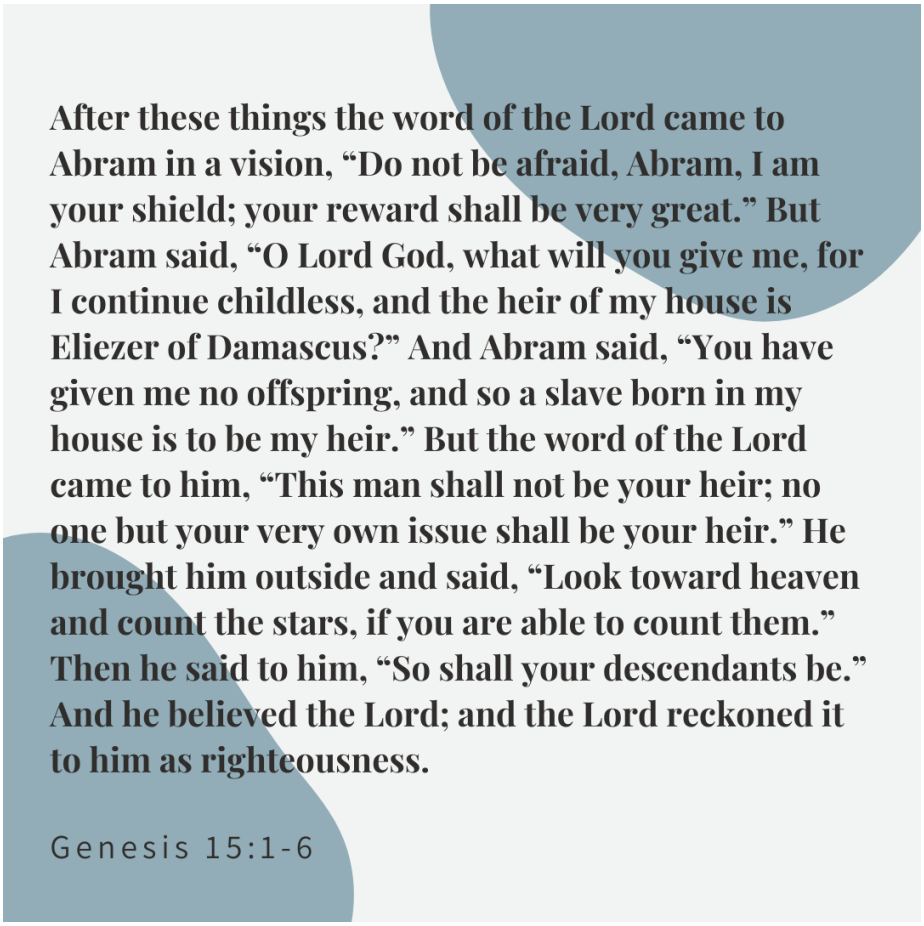
February 25, 2021 Lenten Devotional
Genesis 15:1-6 - "God's Promise to Abraham"
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Lenten Reflection:

Context is the key to anything and everything as far I'm concerned, so let's review what happened before this passage. Lot, Abram's nephew, has been taken captive. Upon finding out, Abram took his trained servants and went off to rescue Lot. They were able to bring back more than just Lot – much the happiness of the now richer king. When the king offered Abram all the goods, Abram declined and accepted only that which his men had already eaten. In this passage, the word of the Lord comes to Abram in a vision saying his reward will be great and will come from the Lord. Perhaps the recent events weighed on Abram's mind, because he questioned what the reward would be? He was childless with a slave set to be his heir. In response, the word of the Lord replied that Abram's offspring would be as numerous as the stars in heaven above.

As I read the passage, I was not sure what I was seeing in it. Being a pastor's kid, it's safe to say I've heard the passage many times over the years as themes of faith, Christianity's earliest roots, the second component of the covenant between God and Abram, and more are preached on. Yet as I reflected this time, I found myself thinking of timing. Which admittedly, is likely my

own recent events weighing on my mind. Lent is a time for reflection and renewal of our relationship to God, honoring the time Jesus spent in the desert doing the same after his Baptism. When I think about the promise God made to Abram regarding his lineage, I notice there no explanation of when the multitude of offspring would join him. Abram was already in his seventies when the promise was made, and another 25 years passed before the birth of Isaac. I have to imagine Abram spent some time wondering just when his firstborn would arrive.

I've found myself recently focusing on and worrying about the timing of the future I think I'm called to. I've made some decisions to wait on certain things, but also accepted new opportunities as I wait. I look forward to, and invite you to join me in, spending time in Lent reflecting on God's timing as it pertains to my life. Learning to have faith like Abram and not worrying about when because God has already determined what. What is that we are saved by God's grace through our faith and that is all that matters.

Thank You, Father, for You know the end from the beginning and everything is within Your authority. Thank You for being in control of all that is happening in my life and the world in general. May I trust You through all the circumstances of life and as I seek You in prayer and praise, may I learn to believe as I pray, "Thy will be done in my life and throughout the world." In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.