

## MESSAGE # 2: ABRAHAM

Biblical Passage: Genesis 17

### I. Introducing the Subject:

We are told in this chapter that the Lord appeared unto Abraham. We are not told what form the Lord appeared in but His presence was real and clearly recognized by the Patriarch. Abraham is 90 years old and the promise of a son seems remote. Yet God comes to him to reassure him that what has been promised will be fulfilled. He assures him that the child will be born of Sarah his wife and that his name will be Isaac and that God will confirm the covenant with him for a continuance of the promises made to Abraham: the land, the nation, etc. The appearance is ratified in the accomplishment of circumcision after the Lord leaves but His coming has been for the chief purpose of enabling Abraham to grip firmly the promises of God. That becomes the lesson in trust that the patriarch needed: God's promises are certain. Because they are given by God their reality is sealed and His servants can live in worshipful hope.

### II. Discussion: God's promises are certain

#### A. Some facts about the promises, gleaned from this encounter

1. They are made at His will
2. They are sealed with His authority
3. They are filled in His time
4. The terms are to strengthen us and remind us always that it is the power of God to achieve.

#### B. Some facts for our personal assurance

1. We need to know what is promised and to make it a part of us.
2. We need to memorialize it in faith
3. We need to live in hope---not a vague idea---but a confidence that God will do what He has said.

III. Conclusion: Return and read this passage many times, see how God did what He promised and learn from it what Abraham learned: how to better trust God. It is a lesson for a lifetime.