

Genesis 26:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

Analysis

And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear no... This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

Historical Context

The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. How should this truth about Abimelech shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

Interlinear Text

בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה
יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	יְהוָה
אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ
וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר	אָמַר
and said	and said	and said	and said	and said	and said
appeared	And the LORD	unto him the same night			
H7200	H413	H3068	H3915	H1931	H559
אָנָּכִי	אָלָה	אָבִיךְ	אָבִיךְ	תִּירְאָה	פִּ
I am the God	Abraham's	thy father		fear	H3588
H595	H430	H85	H1	H408	H3372
את	וְבָרְכָתְךָ	וְבָרְכָתְךָ	וְהַרְבֵּיתְךָ	וְהַרְבֵּיתְךָ	וְרָאֵב
thy seed	thee and will bless	thee and multiply	thee and multiply	thee and multiply	thy seed
H854	H595	H1288	H7235	H853	H2233
ורַבְתָּה	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ	אֶלְךָ
for my servant	Abraham's	for my servant			
H5668	H85	H5650			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:6 (References God): Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Genesis 17:7 (References God): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 15:1 (References Lord): After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Acts 7:32 (References God): Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

Genesis 24:12 (References God): And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

Revelation 1:17 (Parallel theme): And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Genesis 28:13 (References God): And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

Genesis 13:16 (Parallel theme): And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Hebrews 13:6 (References Lord): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.