ABRAHAM’S “FEAR NOT”

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. Gen 15:1 (KJV)

Abraham had become quite large in number and possessions but he certainly was not a nation within himself yet. When he realized that Lot had been taken in the battle between Sodom and her enemies he armed his servants and went on a rescue mission and was successful. In the heat of necessity we sometimes fail to consider what the consequences might be. Abram didn’t think about Sodom’s enemies becoming his enemies. Now he would be forced to post extra watches around his family and all his possessions. He would now have to be constantly aware of terrorists. It is a blessing to know that God is always aware of our predicaments. “After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision.” God did not let him squirm in his fears but rather he came to him with a word. The Lord is sitting ready to speak peace in our situations also. As he sees that we have done the right thing and trusted him fully but now we have opportunity to see the consequences that could naturally come, he hears our common sense saying “Now what do I do?”

Out of his great love for us he comes with a steady yet sturdy “Fear not…I am thy shield.” Yes, our enemies will have poisonous, painful, even fiery darts to shoot at us but God says that He is our shield. He is our gracious, loving, tender God. At the same time he could never be penetrated by the darts of the devil. Oh my! It is such a consolation to know that we can stand up to Satan and say “Hit me with your best shot!” and have the knowledge that He cannot touch us. David knew what it was to fear but he also knew what it was to trust God. In Psalms 27:3 he said “Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear:” God knew that Abraham needed that type of calm. He knew that David needed that calm. The Lord certainly knows that you and I need that calm also. So when we place our faith in Jesus we find that sweet, serene, calmness that we need. It is my prayer that as you are tempted with fear you will also hear a “fear not” from heaven and know that you have a shield that cannot be penetrated.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram