

# God's Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-21

## Introduction

### I The Word Of The Lord Came To Abram

- A. The Lord's 1st Word to Abram
  - 1. Do not be **afraid**, Abram - Ps 27:1; Is 41:10
  - 2. I am your shield - Ps 18:2-3
  - 3. I am your very great **reward** - Heb 11:6; Job 22:25
- B. Abram's response
  - 1. What can you give me?
    - a. Since I remain **childless** - Prov 13:12
    - b. Since my heir is Eliezer of Damascus - Prov 17:2
  - 2. You have given me no children
    - a. So a **servant** will be my heir - Heb 10:35-36
- C. The Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup> Word to Abram
  - 1. Eliezer will not be your heir
  - 2. Your heir will be a **son** from your body - Gen 17:15-16
  - 3. Your offspring will be like the **stars** - Heb 11:12
- D. Abram's response
  - 1. He **believed** the Lord - Rom 4:18-25; Jn 6:28-29
  - 2. God **credited** it to him as righteousness - Gal 3:6-9
- E. The Lord's 3<sup>rd</sup> Word to Abram
  - 1. I am the Lord:
    - a. Who **brought** you out of Ur - Acts 7:2-5
    - b. Who will give you this **land** - Gen 12:7
- F. Abram's response
  - 1. **How** can I know? - Lk 1:18-27

### II The Covenant Of The Lord With Abram

- A. The Lord instructed Abram to:
  - 1. Bring a heifer, goat, ram, dove and pigeon
  - 2. **Cut** them in half and arrange them - Jer 34:18-20
- B. Abram fell into a deep sleep - Job 33:14-18
  - 1. A thick and dreadful darkness came over him
- C. The Lord said to Abram:
  - 1. Your descendents will be **strangers** in a foreign country
  - 2. They will be **enslaved** and mistreated for 400 years

- 3. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves
- 4. Afterward they will come out with great **possessions**
- 5. You will **die** and be buried at a good old age
- 6. Your descendents will return in the **4<sup>th</sup>** generation
  - a. When the Amorite's sin had reached its full measure
- D. The Lord affirmed His covenant
  - 1. A smoking **firepot** with a blazing torch: - Ex 13:21-22
    - a. Appeared after the sun had set
    - b. Passed **between** the pieces of animal - Heb 6:13-14
- E. The Lord's 4<sup>th</sup> Word to Abram
  - 1. To your **descendants** I give this land
    - a. From the river of Egypt to the Euphrates - Dt 11:24
    - b. The land of the "Ites" - Gen 17:7-8

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. What are some of the specific promises God has given you at critical times in your life? What impact did it have on you?
- 2. What was Abram afraid of? [Verses 1-3, 8] How did he handle his fear? Where in your life do you need God to say, "Do not be afraid, I am your shield, your very great reward"? Take a moment to pray through Isaiah 41:10 and Philippians 4:6-7.
- 3. What promises did God give Abram? Were they all good? What does this teach you about God and the Christian life?
- 4. When was Abraham credited with righteousness? By whom? On what basis? [See Gen 15:17] How are people credited with righteousness today? [Rom 1:16-17; 4:18-22; Gal 3:6-9]
- 5. God affirmed His promises by "cutting a covenant". From your understanding of these events, what was God communicating?
- 6. Take a moment to thank God for His indescribable gift of a right standing based on a response of simple faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Ask Him for opportunities this week to share this liberating message of God's love and acceptance!

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