

The LORD Made a Covenant with Abram

Gn 15 ⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." ⁸ And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" ⁹ So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." ¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates — ¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

* **Ch 15** is one of the most _____ chapters of Scripture. (See, e.g., Gal 3 & Rm 4).

* **God is** revealing more and more _____ truth to Abram.

– Remember ch 14. Melchizedek is a vivid picture of _____.

– Remember ch 15.5-6, where the story of the Bridegroom/Strongman is in the _____ and believed by Abram (see Rm 10.18; Ps 19.1-6).

* **Vs 7:** The 2nd part of Gn 15 begins the same way as the 1st, with God making an " _____ " statement to Abram.

Gn 5¹ "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ... ⁷ "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

* **Abram seeks** understanding and assurance regarding God's promises of seed and land, for it is becoming clear that they are not going to be _____ in the way that one would initially expect.

– Seed

– Land

* **God answers** Abram, not simply by reiterating the promises, but by revealing new _____ content.

* **Vs 9-12:** What do the animals, vultures, & darkness signify?

* **Vs 13-16:** God explains that Abram personally is _____ going to possess the land.

* **Vs 17:** God formalizes the _____ and renews the promise of land:

"To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

– This land is way _____ than Canaan.

– At _____ point in her history did Israel conquer or control this whole land.

– This is the same prophetic method as Eze 40-44.

*there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.
17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it
has no power at all while the testator lives.*

– What is God signifying by this?

* **Who is making the covenant?**

_____ preincarnate

Rm 4¹³ [T]he promise that he would be the heir of the world [kosmos] was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Jn 8⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

* **Vs 17:** What is the “smoking oven” and “burning pot”?

* **Who will fulfill the covenant?**

_____ incarnate

Exo 13²¹ And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light

Hb 10⁴ [I]t is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.” (quoting Ps 40.6)

Eze 1⁴ [B]ehold a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself ... [which actually consists of angels]⁵ Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures ...⁷ ... They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze.

Hb 2¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

* **Vs 17:** What is God signifying?

* **Who will inherit the covenant?**

_____ resurrected and ascended

– The standard modern interpretation:

Gal 3¹⁶ [T]o Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ ...²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

– Two kinds of covenants:

Hb 10¹² [T]his Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

– Mutual parties and promises.

– Last _____ and testament.

* _____ is the gospel, our “exceedingly great reward” (1).

Hb 9¹⁵ ... He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death ...¹⁶ For where there is a testament,