

“Cutting a Covenant”
Genesis 15

v. 1a “After this...” (review of chpt. 14).

Q. What came to Abram?

A.

Note: 1).

2).

Note: Heb. 1:1

v. 1b Q. What does God say?

A.

1.

Q. What might this be in response to?

A.

1.

2.

3.

2.

Note:

3.

Note: A better translation, which will help us understand the next verse, is, "Your _____ shall be very great."

Note:

vv. 2-3 Q. How did Abram respond?

A.

Abram clearly expected God to keep His _____. He expected God to make him into a great nation. But he was very _____ that it hadn't happened yet. He and Sarai were getting older and beyond childbearing years, so his reward seemed to be _____ away or at least it was having to be modified using his servant, Eliezer.

Note: Rashi correctly observes that perhaps Abram thought his victory over the kings, and the _____ and _____ that came with it were the fulfillment of the promise in 12:2. That is why God needed to intervene and bring clarity to His plan. (Genesis Rabbah 44:5).

v. 4 Q. How did God answer?

A. "The word of the LORD came to him..." and _____ the promise with divine clarity. You and Sarai will have a _____ son.

v. 5 Q. What did God do by way of symbolic action?

A.

1.

Q. Implies what?

A.

2.

v. 6 Q. What did Abram do?

A. Specifically, Abram _____ that he received from the Lord which seemed _____ from a human perspective. [Faith] It wasn't that he believed *in* God, but he believed God's _____ word.

Note: The Hebrew word for "_____" in this context is "_____." It's a word that means "trust" or "_____." It is a variant form of "amen" which means, _____ - a declarative. "

Note: This is the first time the word "_____" is used in the bible.

Q. What does it mean for the LORD to credit something to someone? Cf. Rom. 4:1-5; Gal. 3:5-7; James 2:23; Rom. 4:9b-12

A. It is a _____ term. It means that you are given something as your _____ without the tangible realization of it. You only realize it when you _____ it.

Q. What does it mean that Abram was credited "righteousness"?

A.

Q. Is there a difference between how a Jew gets saved and a Gentile?

A. No. We are all saved by _____ in the promise of God through the finished work of _____ of Nazareth.

v. 7 Q. What did God do next?

A.

1. He identifies Himself as the _____ keeping God.
2. Associates Himself with Abram's _____ call.
3. Reiterates His sovereign _____ and _____.

v. 8 Q. How did Abram respond?

A.

Q. What is similar with the situation of the father and his demonic son in Mark 9:23-24?

A.

Q. What is different about this context compared with Luke 1:18-20?

A.

Note the difference in Romans 4:19-22.

v. 9 Q. What did the LORD ask for?

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Descriptive:

4.

5.

Note: We are not told why those specific animals were to be used. Later we see in the _____ that they were common for divine sacrifice. However, this is not the _____ of this action.

v. 10 Note: Apparently Abraham knew what to do which implies this was a _____ that God was utilizing as a source of confirmation.

Q. What did Abram do?

A.

1. Abram _____ and brought the animals/birds required.
2. He _____ them in half.
3. He arranged the halves _____ of each other.
4. He kept the birds _____.

Note: Jeremiah 34:17-22

Note: As Jeremiah suggests, and cultural _____ has proven, the ritual of cutting animals in half and walking between them was a _____ practice in the Middle East.

It was viewed as a covenant of self-condemnation or a _____. If the agreement was forsaken, the party _____ the agreement would end up like the dead animals.

v. 11 Q. Why include this information? What does it mean?

A.

1. Practically, a protection from violation or _____ until the Lord ratified the covenant.
2. Symbolically, a picture of Evil trying to _____ a divine action.

v. 12 Q. What happened to Abram during this event?

A.

- 1.

Note: " _____ " = This is the same word that is used in Genesis 2:21 to describe what happened to _____ in the formation of Eve from his body.

- 2.

Note: The dreadful darkness or more accurately, "a dark dread" was _____ of the _____ path his descendants would take in verse 13. (Genesis Rabbah 44:17).

vv. 13-16 Q. What did the LORD do and why?

A.

1. Time specific _____ in another country.
- 2.
3. Enslaving nation _____
- 4.

- 5.
6. Time specific _____ home
7. _____ for delay

v. 17 Q. What happened next?

- A.
1. When a _____ day had begun (evening/morning cycle)
 2. A smoking firepot [oven] represents _____.
 3. A torch represents the divine _____ or Shekinah glory of God.
 4. Both passed _____ the carcasses

v. 18a Q. What did this all represent?

A.

Note: "Carath berith =

Note: Now known as the Abrahamic Covenant, this will be _____, re-covenanted with Isaac (26:3-4) and Jacob (28:14-15).

Note: It is a...

1. _____ (one person)
2. _____ (no conditions on the other party; unlike the Mosaic)
3. _____ covenant
4. That is _____ in this present _____.
5. Based on _____.

Note: This is incredibly important to understand because the _____
Covenant through Jesus is of the same form.

It is:

1. _____ (God alone made the covenant)
2. _____ (it does not depend on anything we "do" but
in our _____ to it as we shall see with Abram and
taught through the Apostle Paul.
3. _____ covenant ("This cup is the new covenant in my
blood" – I Cor. 11: 25)
4. It is _____ in this age and forever.
5. Based on _____ ("by grace you are saved through
faith and not by works lest any man should boast" – Eph. 2:8-9)

v. 18b Q. What was it connected to?

A.

vv. 18b-19 Q. What were the boundaries?

A. From the _____ River of Egypt to the _____ River of
Iraq through Saudi Arabia to the Persian _____. It entails all of
_____ and Lebanon, parts of _____ and Turkey.

Application Questions:

Q. What does this story teach us about the delayed promises of God?

A.

Q. What does it teach us about the unity of the Scriptures when it comes to salvation?

A.

Q. What does this account teach us about suffering and promises of God/

A.

Q. What does this account teach us about doubt and our relationship with God?

A.

Q. What does this account teach us about the place of Israel – past, present, and future in God's divine plan?

A.