

## ABRAHAM: God's Covenant

Genesis 15:1 -16:16

What does the Lord reveal about Himself to Abram? 15:1

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What is Abram troubled about? vv 2-3

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What assurance is he given? vv.4-5

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How does Abram respond? v.6a

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Why was Abram's faith counted for righteousness? v.6b

"The faith 'which counted for righteousness' was the faith that believed what God had said concerning the promised Seed. . . .the faith which justifies has to do directly with the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the character of Abram's faith in Genesis 15; he believed the promise of God which pointed to Christ."

"Gleanings in Genesis" Arthur W. Pink p.168

"The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for sins and was raised to life for our justification."

Romans 4:23-25

What promise does the Lord repeat to Abram? v.7

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What assurance does Abram ask for? v.8

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What instruction is he given and obeys? vv.9-11

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Here an ancient form of contract or covenant is described in which sacrificial animals were divided into halves, and the two parties to the covenant passed between them. In this particular covenant,

only a symbol representing the Lord (v. 17) passed between the pieces, indicating that God alone was undertaking the fulfillment of all the conditions of this covenant.

When does he Lord speak to him? v.12

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When will his descendants inherit the land? Why? vv.12-16

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What covenant does the Lord make with Abram? vv.17-21

"These verses contain a sevenfold prophecy which received a literal and complete fulfillment:

Abram's descendants were to be strangers in a land not theirs.

In that strange land they were to "serve".

They were to be afflicted 400 years.

The nation whom Abram's descendants "served" God would "judge".

Abram's offspring were to come out Egypt with "great substance".

Abram himself was to be spared these afflictions.

In the 4th generation Abram's descendants would return to Canaan."

"Gleanings in Genesis" Arthur W. Pink p.171

"God's call to Abram was a call to take Him at His word and step out in simple and unquestioning faith. His faith was tested again and again: First, his faith had to overcome the *ties of nature*: God's call was for him to leave his country and his kindred. Then, shortly after he had actually arrived in Canaan, his faith was tried by *stress of circumstances* – there was a famine in the land. Next, he had to meet a trial respecting a *brother*: Abram feared that the friction between his herdsmen and the herdsmen of his nephew might lead to "strife" between brethren, and he met this by his magnanimous offer to Lot. Later there was a testing of Abram's *courage*, as well as his love for his nephew. Lot had been captured by a powerful warrior, but Abram hastens to his rescue and delivers him. Subsequently, there is a test of *cupidity*. The king of Sodom offered to "reward" him for overcoming Chedorlaomer. And now he is tested by a suggestion from his wife. Would he take matters out of the hand of God and act in the energy of the flesh with reference to the obtaining of a son and heir."

"Gleanings in Genesis" Arthur W. Pink p.173

What is Sarai's solution to being childless? 16:1-2

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What did Abram think about her solution? vv.3,4a

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What unexpected attitude does Hagar have toward Sarai? v.4b

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Who does Sarai blame for this? v.5

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What permission does Abram give Sarai? v.6a

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What does Hagar do? v.6b

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What does the Angel of the Lord tell her? vv.7-12

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What does Hagar say and do? vv,13-16

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What does Abram (aged 86) do? v.15b

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What has the Lord revealed about Himself to Abram and to Hagar?

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What grace has He shown each of them?

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