

Abraham – Call and Covenant

Genesis 15:1-18

Genesis 12 : 'bless' in English, '*baruch*' in Hebrew = good fortune, prosperity, increase and harmony.

Promises

1. God would give him a son.
2. God would give him a land

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

God says to Abram "Go" and Abram asks, "where" God says, "I'll tell you later."

God says, "I will give you a child and Abram asks, "when?" and God says, "I'll tell you later".

God says, "present your son as a sacrifice." Abram asks "why?" God says, "I'll tell you later"

"Abram believed and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness." (Vs. 6)

"Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" (Vs. 8)

So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." (Vs. 9)

"Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. " (Vs. 10)

"Those who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces. The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds and the wild animals." Jeremiah 34.18

"Cutting covenant".

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. (Vv. 12-15)

"When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking fire pot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces." (Vs. 17)

"Abram, may I be cut off if I don't fulfil my part of the covenant, but Abram, may I be cut off, alienated, rejected, killed, destroyed, if you don't fulfil yours. Abram, I will bless you, even if it means it will cause me to die."

"When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf."

(Hebrews 6:13-19)

"Lord God, you are my shield, not my circumstances and you are my exceedingly great reward." (Gen 15:1)