

Genesis 15 New American Standard Bible

Abram Promised a Son

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.”

² But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ Abram also said, “Since You have given me no son, one who has been born in my house is my heir.” ⁴ Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.

⁵ And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ Then he believed in the Lord; and He credited it to him as righteousness. ⁷ And He said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

⁸ But he said, “Lord God, how may I know that I will possess 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, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. ¹¹ And birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.

¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror *and* great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then *God* said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the wrongdoing of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

¹⁷ Now it came about, when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, a smoking oven and a flaming torch *appeared* which passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land,

From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

¹⁹ the *land of the* Kenite, the Kenizzite, the Kadmonite, ²⁰ the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Girgashite, and the Jebusite.”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally?

4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. After these things, having won Lot back from his captivity, Abraham gets a visitation revelation from God.
2. The word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision. What is the difference between a vision and a dream?
3. Do not fear. Fear had become Abraham's frenemy, but God promises Abraham protection, He declares He will be his shield in times of danger. Do you know the protection of the Lord in your life?
4. God promises Abraham a reward. What for?
5. Abraham asks God what kind of reward. He goes on to focus on the heart of his need. Abraham wants an heir, he wants a son!
6. He has long since thought through what will happen to his name after he dies.
7. He knows Eliezer will inherit everything from him.
8. 'One born in my house' means a member of my family.
9. God responds with words, saying, so God is speaking to Abraham vocally.
10. God declares Eliezer is not going to be your heir because your heir will come from you – Abraham you are going to be a Dad and he shall be a son.
11. God takes Abraham to the glory of the stars and uses the stars in the sky to make a promise to Abraham, a promise he would never forget.
12. Abraham believed, God saw Abraham's right heart, he knew the seed had been planted. The eagle had landed. Why? Because Abraham believed the promise God had made him.
13. Jesus says in the gospels 'unless we believe we cannot receive'.
14. God affirms His identity and He reveals His capability to Abraham as one who is able to do all things.
15. He also promises Abraham this land as the land of their inheritance.
16. Having believed the first promise God had made to Abraham, he is less sure about the second and begins to doubt about the promise of the land.
17. How did the sacrifice Abraham offered help Abraham believe? It drew him to focus on and concentrate, it fixed his attention on God and led him into a deep sleep.
18. God has more success in communicating to us in sleep and dreams than when we are awake, dreams more than visions.
19. God prophesies to Abraham the oppression of the Jews in Egypt, by Pharaoh, for four hundred years.

20. But He also discloses to Abraham God's redeeming mercy over the oppressor and the judgement on Egypt.
21. At the time of their freedom they will carry off the wealth of Egypt.
22. God reveals Abraham's death on earth and his destiny beyond the grave.
23. Would you like to know when your death day is just like you know your birth day?
24. God's revelation to Abraham reveals Israel's journey back to this land.
25. Darkness is what Abraham woke up from his sleep in. God provides an altar for the sacrifice offering.
26. God makes His covenant with Abraham and this covenant is still applicable today. He promised them the land of the Canaanites.