

NOTES

June 18, 2017

God's Makes A Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15: 7-21

7 He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." 8 But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"9 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."10 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.11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 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. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." 17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi[a] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

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Discussion Questions

Genesis 15: 7-21

1. God made a covenant (solemn promise) with Abram with a bloody demonstration of His trustworthiness. What other covenant has God made with us signified by blood? Hint: think of the Lord's Supper — Matthew 26:28.

2. With this covenant, what was Abram required to do to inherit the promise of a land from God?

3. How do we explain the biblical legal boundaries of Israel and the present boundaries today?

4. (*Verses 19-21 refer to 10 nations that were supplanted so Abram's offspring could inherit their land from God*). At a Christmas family gathering your niece home from college informs you she can no longer believe in a God who would destroy certain nations to give their land to other people, as referenced in verses 19-21. How will you respond to your niece?

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