
GETTING TO KNOW HIM

Part 2 – God the Faithful Promise Maker & Keeper



Genesis 15:1-21

A LAMB
A SEED
A BLESSING

Genesis 15:1

¹ Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.”

Genesis 15:2

² But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth.

Genesis 15:3

³ You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.”

Genesis 15:4

4 Then the Lord said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.”

Genesis 15:5

⁵ Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

Genesis 15:6

**6 And Abram believed the Lord,
and the Lord counted him as
righteous because of his faith.**

Genesis 15:7

⁷ Then the Lord told him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.”

Genesis 15:8

⁸ But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?”

Genesis 15:9

⁹ The Lord told 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.”

Genesis 15:10

¹⁰ So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half.

Genesis 15:11

11 Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away.

Genesis 15:12

**12 As the sun was going down,
Abram fell into a deep sleep,
and a terrifying darkness came
down over him.**

Genesis 15:13

**13 Then the Lord said to Abram,
“You can be sure that your
descendants will be strangers in
a foreign land, where they will
be oppressed as slaves for 400
years.**

Genesis 15:14

14 But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth.

Genesis 15:15

15 (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.)

Genesis 15:16

16 After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.”

Genesis 15:17

17 After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses.

Genesis 15:18

18 So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day and said, “I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—

Genesis 15:19-21

¹⁹ the land now occupied by the
Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,
²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,
²¹ Amorites, Canaanites,
Girgashites, and Jebusites.”

Background
to the
Text

Genesis 12:1

¹ The Lord had said to Abram,
“Leave your native country, your
relatives, and your father’s
family, and go to the land that I
will show you.”

Genesis 12:2

² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

Genesis 12:3

³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 15:1

¹ Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.”

Principle #1

The pain, suffering, and setbacks we often see and experience in our everyday lives often tempt us to live in fear. We often fear that we already have missed out or that we will miss out on the promises of God for our lives.

Genesis 15:2

² But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth.

Genesis 15:3

³ You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.”

Principle #2

Too often we mistakenly focus on what we want God to give us or on how we want God to meet our expectations instead of focusing on our greatest treasure, which is an intimate relationship with God.

Genesis 15:4

4 Then the Lord said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.”

Genesis 15:5

⁵ Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

Principle #3

God is a loving and gracious Daddy who loves to encourage us, who doesn't mind listening to our questions (sometimes complaints), and who will give us assurances when we so desperately need them.

Genesis 15:6

**⁶ And Abram believed the Lord,
and the Lord counted him as
righteous because of his faith.**

Principle #4

Genuine belief in God requires us to believe

- He is who He says He is
- He loves us
- He cares for us and about us
- He is good
- He can be trusted

Genesis 15:7

⁷ Then the Lord told him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.”

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⁸ But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?”

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Ancient Near East Covenants

A Covenant is a binding contract between 2 parties. A Covenant is binding on both parties for its fulfillment. In a Covenant Contract, both parties agree to certain conditions.

Ancient Near East Covenants

If either party fails to meet their responsibilities, the covenant is broken. As a result, the other party doesn't have to fulfill the expectations of the covenant anymore. However, whoever broke the covenant invoked a curse on themselves.

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Genesis 15:16

16 After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.”

Principle #5

God's ways are perfect, just, and best; even though they often involve difficulties we did not expect and often take much longer than we want.

Principle #6

God's blessings and promises are wonderful to have, but they are primarily meant to help us grow in our love, belief, and faith in God. They are meant to help us cherish each stage of our present relationship with God.

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17 After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses.

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Principle #7

The fulfillment of God's promises, blessings, and Covenants are solely dependent on His Faithfulness, His Promise, His Love, His Character, His Goodness, and His Word.

GETTING TO KNOW HIM

Part 2 – The Always Present, Relational, Promise Maker and Promise Keeper



Genesis 15:1-21

A LAMB,
A SEED,
A BLESSING