

Genesis 15

1 Abram receives the word in a vision. Many of the communications that come in a powerful way begin with this message not to fear. Fear is not of God. We have to calm our spirits to hear clearly. If we are afraid, we miss or misinterpret what we are hearing. Abram has just defeated the kings and been blessed by, what I believe is, Jesus in the form of Melchizedek. The message not to fear could also be not to fear a retaliatory strike. God says He is Abram's protector, shield - which can be translated 'sovereign'. Those kings pretended importance and power but Abram serves the Almighty - the Most High. He goes on to say, "your very great reward". God rewards us with Himself. As we surrender to His leading and will, we are blessed with His presence. There could be no greater reward than for God to bless us with Himself. That is the reward that will never stop putting us in awe and wonder.

2,3 Abram expresses his deepest grief. No words of thanks, no praise, just straight to his complaint. If the first verse is translated "your reward will be very great" then we see Abram saying, "what does it matter since I have no heir but my servant to inherit it."

4,5 Moses felt this was fulfilled as they were about to enter the Promised Land the second time. Deut 10:22 But to me, it means spiritual fruit.

6 Upon this verse we have much of the New Covenant doctrine. Righteousness comes through believing what God has said, not our own works. Abraham believed God would provide an heir. The heir is ultimately Jesus. Abram is believing in the Christ to come, God's provision before circumcision and before the Law. On the basis of this verse we can see the Old Testament saints came to God just as we do, by grace through faith. Romans 4:18-25

7 God moved Terah to Haran from Ur. It is in Haran Abram is called. But God is the One who put it in Terah's heart to move toward Canaan, to move Abram in that direction. One of the most popular gods in Ur was the moon god - Allah. Think about that.

8,9 We enter into the covenant act of that day to give Abram the assurance God's word would come to pass. God used what Abram understood but put his own twist on it. In that day each party would stand at either end of the row of cut in half animals. They would take turns walking a figure 8 through the blood. They were saying that if they did not hold up to their end of the covenant they should be slaughtered like these animals.

10,11 God does not act immediately. Birds of prey in Scripture can represent evil spirits. Certainly the Realm of Evil did not want God to covenant with man and tried to interrupt the process. Abram had to act to prevent it.

12,13 This is a rounded off figure. The exact number 430 is in Exodus 12:40,41. 400 years would be four generations of that day. Another perspective that would exactly align the two is that the number 430 is the years in Egypt. 400 years is the time of enslavement. In other words, they were not slaves the first 30 years they were in Egypt.

14 The Egyptians faced the plagues and destruction of their army. Israel left with the wealth of Egypt, payment for service rendered.

15 Abram was not going to die in battle or some retaliatory strike from the kings he defeated, but of old age.

16 The time would come to judge the Amorites for their sins and God was going to use the descendants of Israel to do it. They had King Mel their now but in 400 years they would become so wicked they would need to be dealt with. Some people call the conquest of Canaan barbaric. When you consider they were burning their babies alive, the conquest by Israel was putting an end to barbarism for a time in that area. How is the Old Testament order by God to destroy the people of an area different from a national war today?

17 There is no record of Moses passing through, but this symbolic presence of God makes a covenant with Abram.

18-21 This may be the largest description of Israel and it will be the territory in the Millennium. There are great underwater lakes in the desert that could transform that southern desert area into productive land.