



## The Life of Abraham—The Abrahamic Covenant

### The Covenant God Made With Abram

**Genesis 15:7-21** Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." (8) And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit 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, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. (11) And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (12) Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. (13) Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. (14) And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (15) Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. (16) But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." (17) And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. (18) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— (19) the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, (20) the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, (21) the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Dr. Harold Willimington of the Liberty Home Bible Institute writes: In Genesis 15:13-16 God utters a sevenfold prophecy to Abram. All seven have eventually come to pass.

1. That Abram's descendants would be strangers in a foreign land. (See Gen. 46:2-4.)
2. That they would be servants in that land. (See Ex. 1:7-14.)
3. That this servitude would last some 400 years. (See Ex. 12:40.)
4. That God himself would later judge that nation which enslaved Israel. (See Exodus. 7-12.)
5. That Abram would be spared all of this. (See Gen. 25:7, 8.)
6. That after spending four long generations in Egypt, Israel would return to Canaan. (See Ex. 6:16-20. Here we learn that Levi, Abram's great-grandson, was the first generation. Levi's son Kohath, was the second; Kohath's son, Amram, was the third; and Amram's son, Moses, was the fourth.)
7. That Israel would come out of Egypt with great substance. (See Ex. 12:35, 36; Ps. 105:37.)

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From Ur, Abraham traveled **700 miles** to the borders of present-day Iraq, another 700 miles into Syria, another 800 down to Egypt by the inland road, and then back into Canaan - what is now Israel.

I LIKE THE WAY THIS TRANSLATION  
RENDERS THIS ONE VERSE

<sup>20</sup> For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. (NIV)

### Abram Sleeping



## Types of Covenants

So in Gen. 15:8 Abraham asks, how will I know I'll inherit this? He is looking for a commitment he could understand. There are three types of legal covenants in the Bible:

### The covenant of blood

(Gen. 15:10; Jer. 34:18, 19).

### The covenant of a shoe

(Ruth 4:7, 8).

### The covenant of salt

(Num. 18:19; 2 Chron. 13:5).



These were binding covenants or contracts. We would think of it as going to the lawyer and drawing up a contract, signing the papers in front of a notary, and filing them in the courthouse. In the old testament two would have joined hands and walked between the blood sacrifices. Another example of this is found here in **(Jeremiah 34:18) And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it—**

This symbolic ceremony would normally have taken place with both parties communities present to be a witness. After all, who could forget the animals cut in half. It was to say that if I don't keep my bargain, then may the same thing happen to me as these animals. This custom gave rise to the Hebrew expression **(Cut a Covenant)** with someone. In that day they would cut the animals in half except for the birds, the alves would be set side by side and the birds on opposite sides then The party of the first part joined hands with the party of the second part, they stated their contract, and then they walked through the sacrifice.

**Note that God put Abraham in a sleep paralysis.** He couldn't move! Only God walked through the sacrifices. This signified that nothing was required of Abraham. God would keep the promise. The same is true of the blood sacrifice that Jesus made. Nothing is required of us. Jesus will keep the promise because we were not able to keep or fulfill the law.

Abram was responsible for the **preparation and protection** of the sacrifice but it was God alone who took the walk through the midst of the Sacrifice Showing that God alone would keep the **promise**.