

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 15

God's covenant with Abram is a vital teaching both in relation to the Jews, and to followers of Jesus. The chapter begins by God encouraging Abram, and Abram in return telling God that He does not have an heir except for Eliezer of Damascus, who is Abram's chief steward over all his household. God took Abram outside the tent near Hebron and told him to look to the heavens and count the stars and then look to the sea and count the grains of sand. If Abram could do those things, he would also be able to count his descendants to come after him. The key verse of this chapter is 15:6. This verse is quoted by the Apostle Paul in Romans 4:3, where Paul said, this is when Abram truly "trusted" - exhibited saving faith in God's promises.

What followed was the ancient "blood ditch" ritual of making/cutting a covenant. Animals were killed and cut in half with enough space between the halves for a person to walk in between the slain animals. The blood from the slain animals filled the "ditch" or space between the two halves. The participants of the covenant ritual would each walk with bare feet through the ditch filled with blood. In doing so they would be giving testimony and witness that they were willing to die if necessary to fulfill the promises or covenant

being made. Abram was so exhausted that he could not fulfill his participation requirement and so only a burning torch passed or walked through the blood ditch, representing the presence of God. By God being the only participant, He was saying that He, God, would not only die to fulfill his part of the covenant, but see to it that Abram fulfilled his. Oh, the grace of God! This event is referred to time and time again in the Sacred Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank God for His grace and mercy toward you and your loved ones today! God has designed a way to be saved and declared righteous before Him, based on faith/trust and not on any works of righteousness that we could ever do. Ask God by His grace to help you to understand that He is faithful and will never abandon you as you walk on the way in this life. Look for ways today to show your appreciation for God's faithfulness. Look for references throughout the Bible that refer back to this Covenant that God made with Abraham to give him the Land of Canaan, to give him descendants, and make he and his descendants a blessing to all the earth. Mark the times where God says, "I swore to Abram..."

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
