



“Covenant Relationships”

Giving Your Word
Genesis 15:12-21

Covenants come with:

I. Burdens - “and shall serve them” (vs. 12-13)

We will suffer:

A. Displacement – “shall be a stranger”

B. Disrespect – “they shall afflict them”

C. Distraction – “whom....I will judge”

II. Blessings – “come out with great substance” (vs. 14-17)

We will succeed if we :

A. Persevere – “and afterward”

B. Pray - “in peace”

C. Prioritize - “in a good old age”

III. Boundaries - “have I given this land ” (vs. 18-21)

We will separate based on what we :

A. Decide – “this land”

B. Describe – “from the river...unto the great river”

C. Defend – “the Kenites....and the Jebusites”

Sentence Sermon:

“Just as God is faithful with us, we should be faithful in our covenants with others especially our spouse.”

Additional Verses

- *Exodus 1:11-12; 3:21-22; 12:35-36, 40-42; 23:23, 28*
- *Numbers 24:21*
- *Deuteronomy 9:4-6*
- *Psalms 105:11-15*
- *Galatians 3:17*
- *Acts 7:6-8*
- *Genesis 10:15-16; 25:7-8*
- *I Kings 8:65*
- *II Kings 14:25*
- *Isaiah 6:3-7*
- *II Peter 1:3-4*
- *Hebrews 6:13-14; 11:13*

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Why do you suppose Abram’s descendents would have to be servants in Egypt?
- 2. Why did God tell Abram about the 400 years of slavery?
- 3. How did God judge Egypt? How would He judge the USA?
- 4. What was the significance of leaving “with great substance?”
- 5. Does God keep the promises of verse 15?
- 6. What does the phrase “the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” mean? What does it tell us about God?
- 7. Who is represented by the smoking furnace and burning lamp? What is being illustrated?
- 8. What percent of the “promise land” does Israel now occupy?
- 9. Why do you think God lists the people in verses 19-21 instead of physical landmarks?

INTRO:

Include:

- Changing of names...Abraham, Sarah, God of Abraham
- The use of walk through pieces in marriage ceremonies
- The importance of witnesses
- The reality of 100 percent responsibility
- The covenant is permanent and until death
- The yes, no, yes, no...no, yes in today's marriage vow.

Contract = legal and leveraged; Covenant = love and loyalty.

V. 12

- When the sun was going down = dusk and end of the daydoes the sun really go down? No...it only seems to ...does this mean the Bible is in error...no it is being explained to humans in common language.
- A deep sleep fell on Abram = same word as in Genesis 2:21 when Adam was asleep...he fell

asleep with the help of divine Sominex....both times it is clear that life will be created and enjoyed because of what God does not man because he is dead asleep. (cp. I Samuel 26:12)

- An horror of great darkness Fell upon him = God impressing upon Abram the extent and depth of the difficulties his descendents would experience. 400 yrs in Egypt...today's hatred of the Jewish people

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V. 13

- And HE said unto Abram = God talks to Abram
- Know of a surety = Count on it !!! Don't you just love it when God says that!
- Be a stranger in a land that is not theirs = not the promise land butEGYPT
- Shall serve them = be in submission to people who do not love the Lord...how do we do that? Yes, unto the LORD !
- Shall afflict them four hundred years = afflict "brow beat or demean" (Exodus 1:11-12 same word used) not so fun. 400 yrs....who could endure it?

V. 14

- That nation will I judge = God does judge nations...what would He say about the USA?

- And afterward = it reminds me of my second favorite five words in scripture...God so loved the world...also And it came to pass !!
- They come out with great substance = ridiculously large amounts of wealth. I am sure there are some which think they should not have so much wealth but God said they would have that to look forward to.

V. 15

- And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace = Abram would die in peace = peace of mind...not incurring what trouble was being foretold.
- Buried in a good old age = 175 years old
cp. Gen. 25:7-8

V. 16

- But in the fourth generation = 100 years per?
- The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full = 2
Lessons: 1) It is God's mercy for the delay, 2) It is God's wisdom the conquest of Joshua taking the promise land away from a ungodly and wicked people.
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V. 17

- And when it was dark = the backdrop is the darkness and hopelessness of mankind

- A smoking furnace (oven) and burning lamp = The furnace = difficulty, affliction, and suffering followed by the lamp = "glory" and awesomeness of God.
- Passed between those pieces = The one who takes responsibility for the covenant is God alone. It is kept by the reliability and power of God Himself.

v. 18.

- In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram = The promise of CHAPTERS 12 and 13 have become a Covenant in CHAPTER 15.
- Unto thy seed have I given this land = God gave the land...it is for Abram and his descendents
- From the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates = From the Nile to the Euphrates MAP
 - A future that is sure but not fully fulfilled...briefly fulfilled under Solomon (I Kings 8:65) and possibly under Jeroboam (II Kings 14:25).

v. 19-21

- Conquered tribes listed ...compare to Numbers 24:21; Genesis 10:15-16; Exodus 23:23, 28