

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. A splendid mixture of the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man: God shows up and makes a unilateral covenant—giving everything to Abram and his offspring... but Abram better keep the animals in tact until then.

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. With all that he had been through, he still had roughly 90 years left in his life. **16** But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites Deuteronomy 3 singles out these two kings. They are east of the Jordan River so they are not even in what would become the “Promised Land.” **is not yet complete.**” It could be that these **Amorites** are so terrible that this is shorthand for all the people of Canaan (see more complete list in verses 19-21), but I think we can do better. Genesis 14:13 & 14:24 show us that it was an **Amorite** that had made a covenant with Abraham and this may have bought them some more years: safety from getting pummeled by Abraham. Abraham has even more of a relationship with them in his 100th year, it seems (18:1).

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. Two covenanting parties would walk between severed bodies, in that day, to say “if we break our covenant, may we be like unto these animals” (Jeremiah 34:18). This is a unilateral covenant/promise which demonstrates God doing something without another party. Hebrews 6:13 speaks of God doing thing—swearing by Himself because there was no greater by which He could swear. This was a promise to Abraham’s seed, we’re told. Galatians 3:7 seems to put this promise to Abraham not only to seed... but to seed “in Christ”: Jew or Gentile. **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—We see that the Promised Land, then, goes way eastward of the Jordan River after all. 2 Chronicles 9:26 says David saw this boundary down in Egypt in his reign. **19** the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, **20** the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, **21** the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” After observing more than twenty lists there are several good guesses why these were listed and no one is any more authoritative than the other. It seems this is just a general way of stating all the extents of the land. Obviously because this is **Canaan** we are describing these are probably all people of Ham (then **Canaan**).

16:1-2

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had born him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. **2** So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. If this were God’s idea, this was

completely acceptable in that culture. This was still a sin if a sin is “falling short of God’s glory” (Romans 3:23). Abram presumably knew God’s design from his forefathers (Genesis 2). This is only 5th hand information to Abram. Abram did, though, capitulate to his wife...just like Adam.