

Abram Was Assured of God's Covenant: Reassured Faith; How to Overcome Fear and Disappointment Genesis 15:01–21

**1. *Abram heard and believed
God's Word,
God's assurance not to fear:
God is the believer's Shield
and Great Reward***

**2. *Abram heard and believed
God's Word:
God's promise to give
the promised seed***

a. Abram's fear
and disappointment:
Being childless

b. God's Word and reassurance

1) The seed is sure

2) The seed shall number
as the stars of the sky

c. Abram believed God's Word:
Believed God
and was counted righteous

**3. *Abram heard and believed
God's Word:
God's promise
to give the promised land***

a. God saved Abram to give him
the promised seed

b. Abram asked God
for more and more assurance,
for a visible sign

After this,
the word of the LORD came to Abram
in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD,
what can you give me since I remain childless
and the one who will inherit my estate
is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said,
"You have given me no children;
so a servant in my household will be my heir."

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him:
"This man will not be your heir,
but a son who is your own flesh and blood
will be your heir."

5 He took him outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars —
if indeed you can count them."
Then he said to him,
"So shall your offspring be."

6 Abram believed the LORD,
and he credited it to him as righteousness.

7 He also said to him,
"I am the LORD,
who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land to take possession of it."

8 But Abram said,
"Sovereign LORD, how can I know
that I will gain possession of it?"

c. God gave Abram a visible sign:
A well-known human covenant

- 1) The animals used in the covenant
- 2) The sacrifice and ceremony of the animals

3) God delayed His appearance:
Abram had to fight off the vultures

d. God caused a deep sleep to fall on Abram:
Assured him of the promised seed's triumphant future

- 1) The seed shall be oppressed and enslaved (for 400 years)
- 2) The seed shall be delivered (with wealth)
- 3) The believer (Abram) shall have peace with his fathers — live forever
- 4) The seed shall return to the promised land

e. God gave Abram a deep experience of His holy presence

9 So the LORD said to him,
“Bring me a heifer,
a goat and a ram,
each three years old,
along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

10 Abram brought all these to him,
cut them in two and arranged the halves
opposite each other;
the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

11 Then birds of prey came down
on the carcasses,
but Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was setting,
Abram fell into a deep sleep,
and a thick and dreadful darkness
came over him.

13 Then the LORD said to him,
“Know for certain that for four hundred years
your descendants will be strangers
in a country not their own
and that they will be enslaved
and mistreated there.

14 But I will punish the nation
they serve as slaves,
and afterward they will come out
with great possessions.

15 You, however,
will go to your ancestors in peace
and be buried at a good old age.

16 In the fourth generation
your descendants will come back here,
for the sin of the Amorites
has not yet reached its full measure.”

17 When the sun had set
and darkness had fallen,
a smoking fire-pot with a blazing torch
appeared and passed between the pieces.

- f. God reaffirmed
His covenant with Abram
- 1) The promised seed reaffirmed
 - 2) The promised land
reaffirmed
(with the boundaries given)

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant
with Abram and said,
“To your descendants I give this land,
from the Wadi of Egypt
to the great river, the Euphrates:

19 the land of the Kenites,
Kenizzites, Kadmonites,

20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,

21 Amorites, Canaanites,
Girgashites and Jebusites.”