

In chapter 15 we see God speaking again to Abram. Here He gives Abram a promise and Abram believes the Lord, a key component in any relationship, but particularly in our walk with the Lord. In the second half of the chapter we then see God enter into a covenant with Abram, involving a ceremony quite unique to any other.

Genesis 15:1-21

God's

Covenant

with

Abram

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Understanding covenants today can be interesting. While they still exist, we tend to see them somewhat rarely. When you consider a covenant, it typically comes with a ceremony of some kind, establishing significance on the thing being formalized.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT is the first thing that comes to mind when you consider a covenant?

HOW are covenants established?

WHAT sort of ceremonies can you think of that surround various kinds of covenants?

DESCRIBE the relationship between a *faith* and a *covenant*.

CAN a covenant involve one person, or does it depend on two? **EXPLAIN** your response.

Genesis 15:1-21

God's Covenant with Abram

Read Genesis 15:1-21

OBSERVATION

According to vs. 1, when did the word of the Lord come to Abram?

What two things did God say to Abram in vs. 1?

How does Abram question God in vs. 3?

Describe what the Lord promises to Abram in vs. 4-5.

How does Abram respond the Lord in vs. 6?

In vs. 8, what is the question Abram asks of God?

Describe what happens in vs. 9-10.

In vs. 13-16, what things does God reveal to Abram and how?

What passed through the "pieces" in vs. 17?

What does God make with Abram in vs. 18 and what does it entail?

INTERPRETATION

In vs. 1, what does it mean that God will be Abram's shield?

After hearing the promises of God in vs. 1, why do you think Abram raises the specific question he does in vs. 2?

Who is Eliezer of Damascus, and why does Abram think he will be his heir?

What is the role of belief in the relationship God and Abram share? How is this similar for us today? Consider Galatian 4:26-29, Romans 4:20-25.

Why do you think Abram asks the question he does in vs 8, and is it appropriate to question the Lord?

What is the symbolism of the ceremony in vs. 9-11? Consider Jeremiah 34:18.

Why does Abram not participate in this ceremony?

What does vs. 16 mean?

APPLICATION

What part of this story becomes God's promise to us? See Romans 4:1-5, 16-17, 23-25.