

Read Genesis 15:7-19

**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?”

**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 firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

**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.”

**After God promised to give Abram the land, what did Abram ask God (v. 8)?** How can I know for sure that I will get the land?

**How did God prove to Abram that the land would be his (vv. 9-10)?** God told Abram to bring Him some animals and Abram cut them in half and laid them opposite each other. **What happened to Abram next (v. 12)?** He fell sound asleep.

**What did God tell Abram would happen in the future (v. 13)?** He and his descendants would be slaves in a foreign country for 400 years. **What country was that?** Egypt

**What did God promise to do to the slave masters who were mean to Abram’s descendants (v. 14)?** Punish them. And God would make the slave masters give them lots of valuable things when they left Egypt (Exodus 12:35-36).

**What did God say would happen to Abram’s descendants after 400 years (v. 16)?** They would come back to the Promised Land. **Who would lead them into the Promised Land?** Joshua

**When it got dark, what happened (v. 17)?** A smoking firepot and blazing torch passed between the animals that Abram had cut in half. **What was the smoking firepot?** God himself.

**What was God doing in all this (v. 18)?** He was making a covenant with Abraham. **What is a covenant?** A promise/treaty/agreement. God was proving to Abram that the land would one day belong to his descendants.