

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, Gergashites 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.