

Abram Receives Confirmation and a Covenant **Genesis 15:1-21**

The Lord confirms Abram will have many descendants. 1-5

This = 4th encounter with God. Promises of land and descendants are still unfulfilled, and Abram's fear expressed in verses 2,3 are much like a lament. A visual challenge is given for confirmation as in 13:16. See also 22:17, 26:4, 28:14, Ex. 32:12,13.

Abram's belief in the Lord is credited as righteousness. 6

- 15:6 is quoted in Rom. 4:3,9,22, Gal. 3:6, Js. 2:23. Faith is the only way one can be *credited* for a righteous standing before God.
- Note Abram already possessed faith (12:4), just as God had already committed to fulfill His word before this covenant in 17-21.

The Lord's covenant with Abram guarantees Him the land. 7-21

- Abram also has concerns about the land promise so God instructs him to prepare for a formal covenant ritual. See Jer. 34:18-20.
- Abram is terrified during deep darkness, as he is informed of a troubled 400-year wait for the promise of the land to be fulfilled. What is the stated rationale for the later invasion of Canaan?
- Only God, in a theophany, obligates Himself (an unconditional covenant) so failure by Abram or his descendants can't undo this.



What are some very encouraging truths here for us to remember?