### Genesis

## Chapter 15

1Well after that, Jehovah sent word to Abram in a vision, saying:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, Abram... For I am your shield, and you’ll receive a huge reward.’  
  
2Then Abram said:  
  
 ‘O Almighty Jehovah! What can You give me, since I’m about to die without a son? EliEzer of Damascus, the home-born son of my [slave girl] Masek of Damascus, is my heir.’  
  
3And Abram continued:  
  
 ‘I’m so very sad, because You haven’t given me a descendant, and the home-born [of my slave girl] will be my heir.’  
  
4Well, the Lord immediately replied, saying:  
  
 ‘He won’t be your heir… Another that comes from you will be your heir.’  
  
5Then He took him outside and said:  
  
 ‘Look up into the sky and count all the stars… That is, if you can come up with an accurate count.’  
  
And He said:  
  
 ‘This is how your offspring will be.’  
  
6So Abram believed The God, and his [faith] was counted to him as righteousness.  
  
7Then [God] said to him:  
  
 ‘I’m the God who brought you out of the land of the Chaldeans to give you this land as an inheritance.’  
  
8And [Abram] said:  
  
 ‘My Lord and Master, how can I know [for sure] that I’ll inherit it?’  
  
9And He replied:  
  
 ‘Collect for Me a 3-year-old heifer, a 3-year-old nanny goat, a 3-year-old billy goat, a dove, and a pigeon.’  
  
10So Abram brought all three of [the animals] to Him, cut them each into halves, and set [the halves] opposite each other… But he didn’t cut the winged creatures into halves.  
  
11Well, birds then started landing on the bodies (the cut-up parts), as Abram sat there next to them.  
  
  
12Then, about sunset, Abram fell into a trance and {Look!} he had an ominous premonition. 13For Abram was told [by God]:  
  
 ‘You must know this for a fact; your offspring will have to live as aliens in a foreign land where they’ll be slaves who are treated badly and humbled for 400 years.  
  
 14‘Then I’ll judge the nation that they are to serve; and following that, [your offspring] will return here with many possessions. 15However, you’ll go to your fathers [in the grave] well fed and in peace at a ripe old age.  
  
 16‘Then the 4th generation will return here... Because, even up to this point, the sins of the Amorites haven’t reached their climax yet.’  
  
17Well, as the sun was setting, {look!} there was a flame that looked like a smoking furnace and like lamp fires that moved between the divided pieces [of the animals]!  
  
18This was the day that Jehovah made a Sacred Agreement with Abram. He said:  
  
 ‘I will give this land – from the [Nile] River of Egypt to the great EuPhrates River – to your offspring, 19along with:  
  
 • The Kainites,  
 • the Kenezites,  
 • the KedMoneans,  
 • 20the Hittites,  
 • the Pherezites,  
 • the Raphaim,  
 • 21the Amorites,  
 • the CanaAnites,  
 • the Hevites,  
 • the Gergesites, and   
 • the Jebusites.’