



THE LORD GIVES HIS PROMISE

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

The LORD's Covenant With Abram

¹ After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield,^[a] your very great reward.^[b]"

² But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit^[c] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."

⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring^[d] be."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:12-18(NIV)

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^[a] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—