

February 26<sup>th</sup>

## GOD MAKES A COVENANT

*“When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,”*

**GENESIS 15:17-18**

“Cross my heart, hope to die, stick a needle in my eye.” A “pinky promise.” A blood promise where friends’ blood is shared making them blood brothers. These are all ways that kids emphasize to someone that they are telling the truth. They want someone to believe they are sincere. Ever used one of those before when you were a child? God gives a grand promise to Abram. But He doesn’t just give him the promise. He confirms it with an oath. What do we learn about God here?

It's important for you to know the nature of what Abram was receiving from God. Abram knew about covenants. It was custom during his days to make a promise between two parties. Animals would be divided in half. The two parties would then walk through the path of the divided animals. The walk symbolized that a promise was being made. If the promise was ever broken, the party that breaks the promise is pledging that he would become cursed like the divided animal. Abram probably would have expected something to happen here with him and God. But God.

Notice what doesn’t happen. Abram never is called by God to walk through the divided animals. The only One that goes through is God. That’s right. The smoking pot and flaming torch is God. And God passes between the animal pieces. But what does this mean? Covenants are supposed to be between two or more parties. But God. God is giving his oath unilaterally. No curse will come upon Abram. The curse will come upon God if He doesn’t keep His promise. Hebrews 6:13-14 restates the power of this promise: “For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” God guarantees His promise with Himself.

Does this remind you of another guarantee that comes through God being cursed? Our Father sent His Son Jesus to become the curse in our place. Galatians 3:13-14 says, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” Jesus was cursed so you can receive eternal life. His perfect life has been credited to your account! Men, how do you find hope in the perfect promise of God? His perfect work rescues you from your sin and gives you eternal life.

***Spend some time thinking about the price that God paid to save you out of your sin. Thank Him today for His perfect love and grace.***

**For Further Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20**