

Genesis: Chapter 15

Opening Question: What new information is Abram given in this scene and why would Israel need to know this?

Key Takeaways:

1. “After these things” alerts the reader that a new scene is beginning.
2. Genesis 15:1 is a reminder back to Genesis 12 and the LORD’s promise to make Abram and Sarai the carriers of the Genesis 3:15 promised seed.
3. Because the LORD is protecting his promised seed, He will be a shield to each of the carriers of the promise until they have fulfilled their purpose.
4. Abram’s descendants are described as numerous as the stars of the heavens in this scene which will be referenced again in Joseph’s dream in Genesis 37 and in Daniel 12.
5. Genesis 15:6 is a disjunctive clause where the narrator breaks in to remind the reader of Abram’s faith in believing the Word of the LORD back in chapter 12.
6. The rest of the chapter is the LORD’s answer to Abram’s question in verse 8 about possessing the land.
7. Verses 9–19 draws the picture of exactly how Israel will come to possess the land and when they will know it is time to take possession of the land.
8. When the smoke and fire show up again in the story, then Israel will know it is time to go into the land.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reread together chapter 15 and relisten to the explanation of verses 9–19 from the TMTB podcast (00:12:02-00:15:26). What picture is being drawn so that Israel will know when to go and take the land?
2. Discuss the importance of 15:4, 15:6, and 15:9 in this chapter. Relisten to this portion of the podcast for a reminder (00:17:08-00:00:17:56).
3. Discuss the unique role that Abram and Sarai and the nation of Israel play in this story and why the promises the LORD makes to them do not apply to all believers.

Practical Application:

1. Reread Genesis 15 and recount what significant things the reader is learning or being reminded of in this scene.
2. How does understanding the unique role of Abram and Sarai and the nation of Israel inform your understanding of the LORD's promises to them as the carriers of the Genesis 3:15 promise? Do you ever mistakenly read yourself in as a recipient of promises to biblical characters that do not apply to you?
3. What new information did you learn from this week's study of Genesis 15 and how did your understanding of this scene change, if at all?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for the details of Your unfolding story. Please help us to read well and avoid the temptation to apply biblical promises to ourselves that You made to specific people who played unique roles in Your plan for salvation. Amen.