

## Chapter 15

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a **vision**: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

- the word of the LORD – 1<sup>st</sup> use of this phrase, twice in this chapter 15:1, [15:4](#)
  - [Strong's #1697](#) – דָּבָר – dâbâr – daw-bawr – “Word”
    - [1 Samuel 15:10](#) – The word of the Lord came to **Samuel**:
    - [2 Samuel 7:4](#) – ... the word of the Lord came to **Nathan**,
    - [1 Kings 6:11](#) – Now the word of the Lord came to **Solomon**,
    - [1 Kings 18:1](#) – the word of the Lord came to **Elijah**
    - [Isaiah 38:4](#) – Then the word of the Lord came to **Isaiah**:
    - [Jeremiah 1:4](#) – Now the word of the Lord came to **me**,
    - **Moses** met with “The Word.”
      - [THE TARGUMS](#)— Aramaic translations and commentaries on Hebrew scriptures widely used in Judea during Jesus’s time.
      - **THE “MEMRA”**<sup>1</sup>— Aramaic meaning, “Word” in the phrase “Word of the Lord” is often personified and divine in Targum commentaries. They sometimes see the Memra as separate from God, other times equate it with God, but do not resolve this paradox.
      - Rabbinic Targums – suggested that Moses met with [the Word of God](#)<sup>2</sup> on Mt. Sinai, and other places when God appeared to him.
  - The Bible elaborates on the “**Word**”
    - [John 1:1-2](#) – In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.
      - **In the beginning** was the **Word**
        - and the **Word** was with **God**
        - and **the Word** was **God**.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/10618-memra>

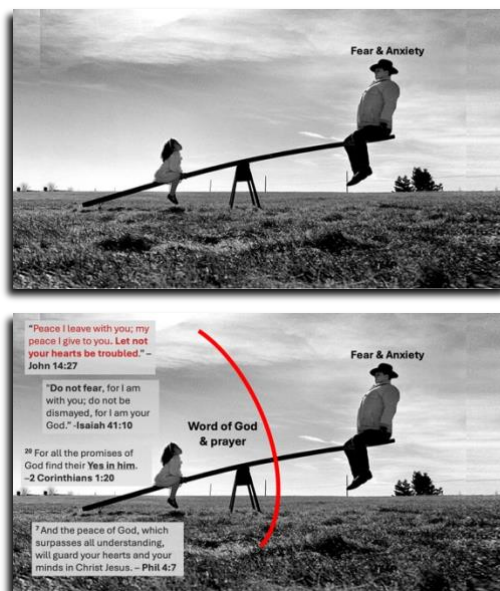
<sup>2</sup> <https://thebiblesays.com/en/tough-topics/jewish-and-greek-philosophy>



- He was **in the beginning** with God
  - [Isaiah 55:10-11](#)– “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall **my word** be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a **vision**: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield;

- The **LORD** appeared/ spoke directly to Abram – [Genesis 12:7, 13:14-17](#)
- ★ **Vision**– 1<sup>st</sup> mention
- ★ **Fear not** – 1<sup>st</sup> mention. Why would he be afraid? “After these things”
  - He just defeated two powerful kings from the east. They could come back, especially after they found out that Abram had only 318 men.
  - **Fear & anxiety**- It can paralyze.
    - For those who have not suffered with it, it is hard to relate; some even fail to be compassionate.
    - “Just trust God!” they say
      - Many great men of God were fearful, and they knew Him!
      - Point is, it isn’t that easy sometimes, and God has to say, “Don’t be afraid.” And He does, over and over.
        - He says that through His word today, and through us to others when we show Spirit-led **compassion** (Suffer with).



- Like a seesaw or a scale, with one side being our understanding and trust in God, and fear on the other side
- Many men of God needed encouragement, so don't think that only weak people deal with fear.
- Perhaps you are struggling with anxiety of some sort. Worry and concern are stealing your peace.
  - [Phil 4:6-7](#) – <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
  - Difficult things happen to us because the world is still fallen, our flesh is still part of this world.
    - The question is: What does God have for us in the difficulty?
    - He allowed it, and we can praise Him as God from it and so glorify His name in spite of our circumstances.
      - This is what Jesus did.
    - **The understanding** that God is aware and with you can bring great comfort in times of need.
    - The enemy tries to capitalize on a difficult situation and sow doubt about what God has said.
      - Nothing new! This is how he worked on Eve [Genesis 3](#), “Did God say...?”

- I know someone will say, “yea pastor, that sounds good on paper but in real life it doesn’t work!”



- Boat Story
  - Went out on my dad’s boat in rough water.
  - It was around the time in my life when the Lord pulled me back to Him spiritually in a great way.
    - I had just spent hours in the Word and prayer before we went out.
  - I rode out on the flybridge (A **flybridge** is a second helm station positioned above the main deck — designed for enhanced visibility, performance)
  - The storm tossed the boat all around but I was not afraid at all. I remember thinking that I should be afraid.
    - Because of my trust in God.
- Notice: God **came to him** and comforted and strengthened him.
  - The **LORD** is our comforter and our encouragement
    - He will even come to you.
    - Lift yourself up by your bootstraps?!? Impossible!
      - However, **David strengthened himself** in the **LORD** – [1 Samuel 30:6](#)
        - This is a similar story to Abram’s heroic rescue in the [last chapter](#)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, **I am your shield;**

- **I am your** **★ shield** – [1st time]. This applies to us:
  - **Psa 18:2** – The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my **shield**, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
  - **Psa 18:30** – This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a **shield** for all those who take refuge in him.



- Abram need not fear the avenger from the east.

⌋ I am your shield; **your reward shall be very great.**”

- **Your reward:**

- Two ways to see this, both are correct:
  - [ESV](#) – After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; **your reward shall be very great.**”
  - [KJV](#) – After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: **I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.**
    - [Psalm 37:4](#) – **Delight yourself in the Lord**, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
    - He becomes the desire of your heart when you delight in Him!

I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> **But** Abram said, “O **Lord** God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

- ★ **Lord** God, 1<sup>st</sup> use of **Adoni Jehovah**
- Sometimes our circumstances can have us so down that we miss the significance of what God has said.
  - The spiritual sometimes doesn’t break through because of present physical needs, circumstances, or difficulties.
- Abram is afraid and also feels like he has no chance of a legacy.

<sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the **LORD** came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the **LORD**, and he counted it to him as righteousness.



- “This man shall not...” – Basically, what God is saying is, “Abram, the prognosis (before-knowing/ Forecast) of your current situation, the subtotal of everything on paper in your life, the way it all looks to you, does not calculate to my plan!”
- “your very own son...” – He was childless at this moment!
- Whatever our circumstances say, whatever the culture says, whatever our own fallen self says is completely wrong if it contradicts what God has said!
  - Fallen Self, “You are an idiot, you are no good, you are so far from God, you are....”
  - Maybe you feel like God doesn’t love you.
  - All of these things contradict what God has said:
    - God demonstrated His love through the Cross – drop the mic!
    - He cares for you – 1 Peter 5:7
    - You have great value to God! – Matthew 6:26
- So shall your “Seed” be.
- Abram ★ believed God – Notice, it does not say, “Abram believed in God”
  - We need to believe God!
  - Many believe in God yet fail to believe Him.
- to him as ★ righteousness.
  - The word points to -Rightly clothed

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, “I am the **LORD** who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup> But he said, “O **Lord** God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

- The animals picture Christ. How long was Jesus’ public ministry? Three years.
  - Heifer – Numbers 19:2: **Red** Heifer without blemish, perfect



- Goat – [Leviticus 16:15](#): Sin offering & Scape goat
- Ram – [Leviticus 5:16](#): Guilt offering, [Leviticus 8:18](#): Burnt offering
- Turtledove & pigeon – [Leviticus 14:22](#): Sin and burnt offering for the poor

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the **LORD** said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

- four hundred years – joeseph to moes
- I will bring judgment – The Canaanites were despicably evil
  - Worshiped false gods, sacrificed children
    - It all goes back to Nimrod and Babylon
- Amorites – are an all-encompassing term for the descendants of Canaan ([Gen 10:15-19](#))

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

- Abram had to wait on the Lord to sign/ ratify the covenant.

<sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”



- “Sometimes God's promises are unconditional and only need to be received. And sometimes God's promises depend upon our obedience in order to gain the promised benefit. It is important to discern which is which. We can cause ourselves major problems trying to earn something God gives, or believing we are entitled to something God requires us to seek.” – TheBibleSays.com.
- Guzik – “Therefore, the certainty of the covenant God made with Abram is based on who God is, not on who Abram is or what Abram would do. This covenant could not fail, because God cannot fail.”<sup>3</sup>

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

[Calvary Southport](#)

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-15.cfm?a=15008](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-15.cfm?a=15008)