



JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

## GENESIS: PROPHET

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<sup>1</sup>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.”

**Genesis 15:1 (ESV)**

### AFTER THESE THINGS:

<sup>18</sup>And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) <sup>19</sup>And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup>and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

**Genesis 14:18-20 (ESV)**

### WORD OF THE LORD:

### VISION:

<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.”

**Genesis 15:2-3 (ESV)**

Abram’s situation contradicts not only the general view of Genesis that divine blessing leads to a man being fruitful and multiplying (1:28; 9:1; 26:24; 35:11), but also the specific assurances already made to him.<sup>1</sup>

<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.

**Genesis 15:4-6 (ESV)**

The common denominator that emerges from this lexical study is that the phrase in question concerns taking God at his word—believing that what he says will become reality and then acting on that belief.<sup>2</sup>

<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?”

**Genesis 15:7-8 (ESV)**

<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.

<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.”

<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. <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.”

[Genesis 15:9–21 \(ESV\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

<sup>5</sup>Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— <sup>6</sup>just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? <sup>7</sup>Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” <sup>9</sup>So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

[Galatians 3:1–9 \(ESV\)](#)

While Genesis implies that the sons of Abram must be men of faith, Paul turns the words around and explains, “it is men of faith who are the sons of Abraham” (Gal 3:7).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wenham, G. J. (1987). [Genesis 1–15](#) (Vol. 1, p. 328). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.

<sup>2</sup> Walton, J. H. (2001). [Genesis](#) (p. 421). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>3</sup> Wenham, G. J. (1987). [Genesis 1–15](#) (Vol. 1, p. 335). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.