



FOUNDATIONS *of*
REDEEMPTIVE
HISTORY

Part 2

Genesis 12-24

BREAKDOWN OF TEXT

1. ~~Abram Journeys to Egypt (12)~~

2. ~~Abram, Lot, and the War (13-14)~~

3. God's Covenant with Abram (15)

4. Sarai, Hagar, and Doubt (16)

5. God's Covenant of Circumcision (17)

6. The Promised Birth of Isaac, and the
Destruction of Sodom/Gomorrah (18-19)

7. Abraham, Abimelech, and Isaac's Birth
(20-21)

8. The Sacrifice of Isaac (22)

9. Sarah's Death (23)

10. Isaac and Rebekah (24)

REVIEW

GENESIS 13-14

What happened?

How does it apply?

Some personal thoughts from ch. 13-14

- Abram made the altar at Bethel after the initial covenant in chapter 12. Then he went to Egypt.
- After his failure with Pharaoh and Sarai, imagine coming back to Bethel, recognizing his own sins, weaknesses, and failures. He was likely reminded of God's faithfulness and covenant promise at that place.

Some personal thoughts from ch. 13-14

- When he first received the covenant from God, Abram had nothing. I remember what it was like when God first opened my eyes and I began to follow Him. I had nothing, and it was such an easy answer to follow Him.
- But now Abram has so much. How difficult it must be to walk in faith when you have so much now to lose. So Abram tithes, remember that all He has is a blessing from God, with a purpose to bless the world.
- I have many more blessings that God has given me that I've picked up over the years of life lived. I remember that I must constantly come back to a place where I remember my first love, remembering my surrender and love for Him when I first became a believer. Nothing compares to Jesus.

Some personal thoughts from ch. 13-14

- *Melchizedek was a **king**, but he was also a **priest**.*
- *Abram tithed to Melchizedek.*
- *Melchizedek blessed Abram.*
- *All this points forward to Christ, who is the Priest King, representing us to God and God to us. As Melchizedek predates the Levitical Priesthood and the Mosaic Law, so Christ comes with a better covenant. This whole line of unfurling is needed to communicate to mankind their desperate need for the Messiah Savior.*
- *Jesus comes from the line of Abraham, but he also predates Abram.*

Beware
Chat GPT

Personal study questions (Genesis 15)

1. Why is it so important to communicate that and heir will come from Abram's "own body"?
2. What does it mean that Abram believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness (15:6)? Take some time to read through Galatians 3.
3. What is the significance of having animals involved in the sacrifice? Why are sacrifices needed at all to ratify a covenant with God? Think through other passages in Scripture that might help with this understanding.
4. Why does terror and great darkness fall upon Abram in 15:12?
5. Why does God talk about what will happen to Abram's descendants (15:13-14)? Which parts of the covenant of land, nation, and blessing are affected? Why do you think this will happen?
6. Who passed through the animal pieces (15:17)? Who didn't? Why does this matter?

GENESIS 15

God's Covenant with Abram

- 1. Covenant unfurling (15:1-7)**
- 2. Covenant material (15:8-10)**
- 3. Covenant atmosphere (15:11-12, 17)**
- 4. Covenant prophecy (15:13-16)**
- 5. Covenant unfurling (15:18-21)**

1. Covenant unfurling (15:1-7)

- 15:1 “After these things...”
- 15:2 “word of the LORD came [...] in a vision”
- Who was Eliezer of Damascus?

Gen. 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.”

2 Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.” 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

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1Pet. 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD



Unconditional Covenant Given

1. Land
2. Nation/People
3. Blessing

***Gen. 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and
He reckoned it to him as righteousness.***

Heb. 6:11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

*Rom. 4:19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, **He was able also to perform.** 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

*Matt. 13:31 He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a **mustard seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field; 32 and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that **THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.**”*

APPLICATION

Remember how old Abram was when he left Haran for Canaan. Keep in mind how difficult it must be trust in God. But his faith was reckoned as righteousness.

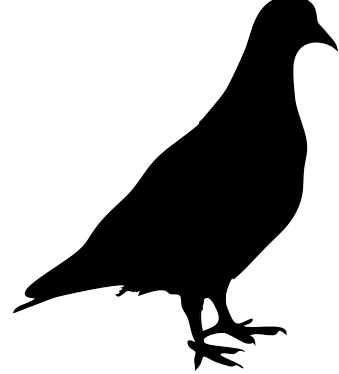
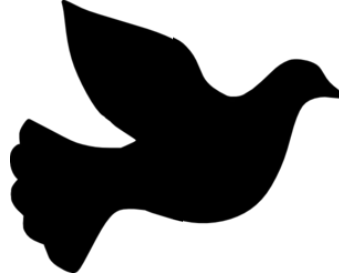
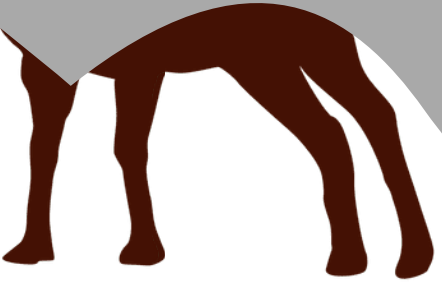
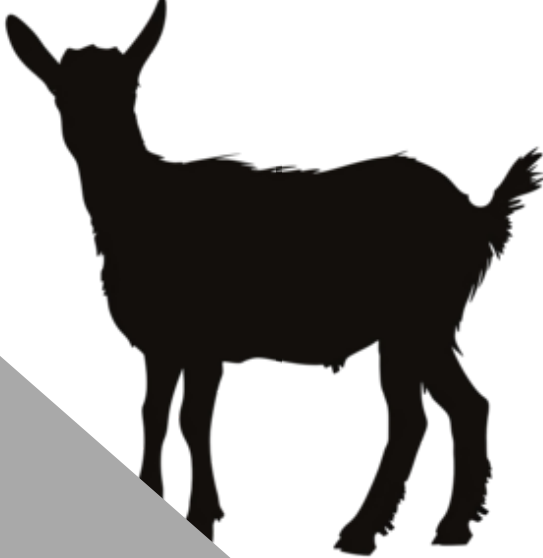
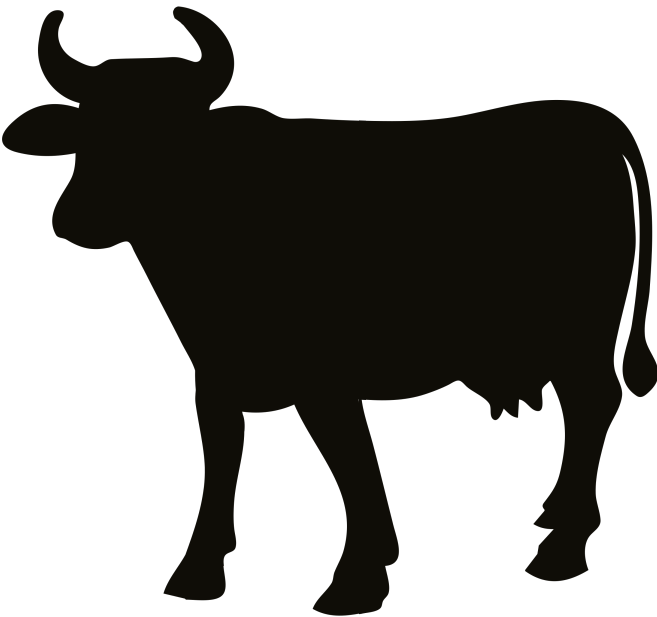
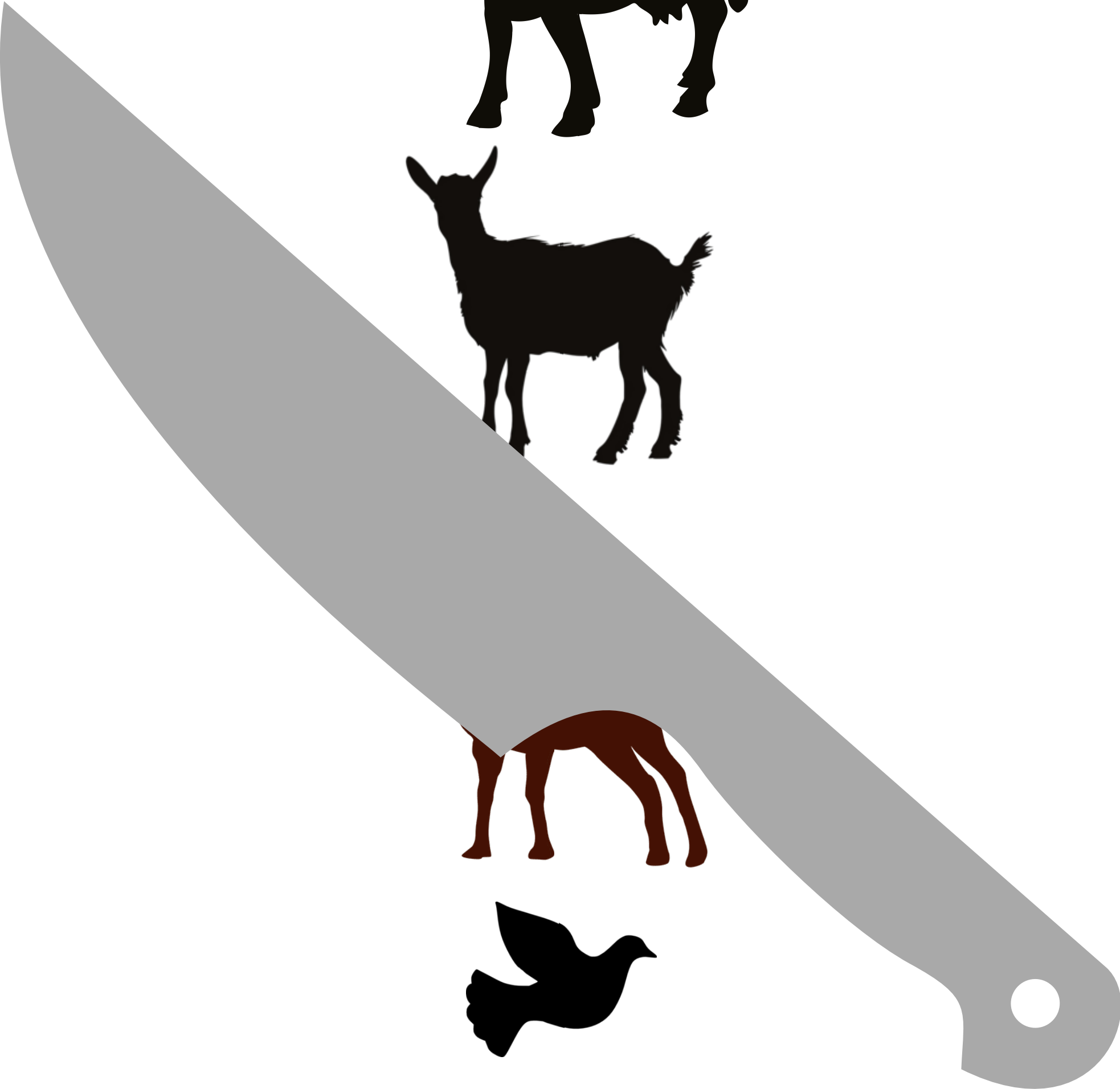
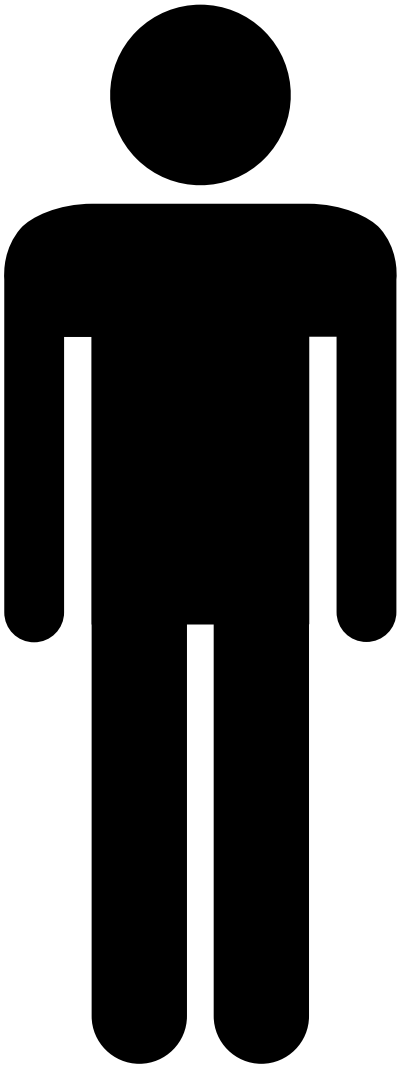
(Q) Do I actually believe that God is trustworthy? Are there any places where I have been afraid to cede control, because I don't actually want what God wants? Places where I'm impatient with His timing or methods?

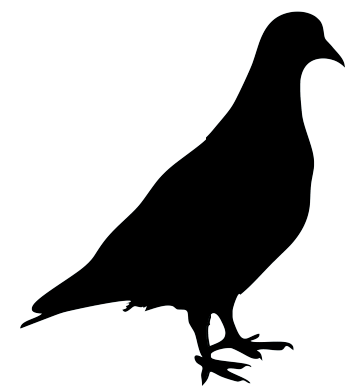
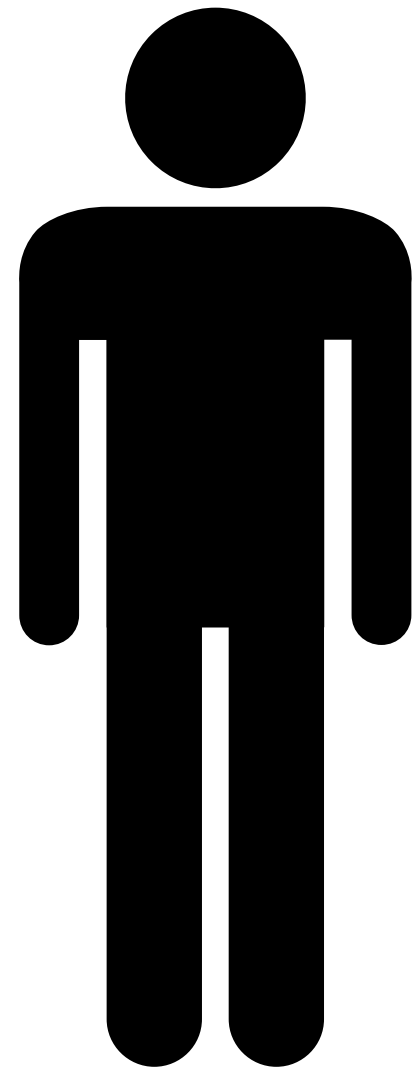
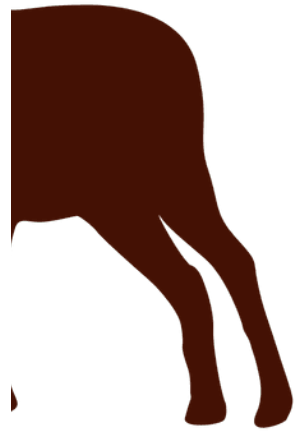
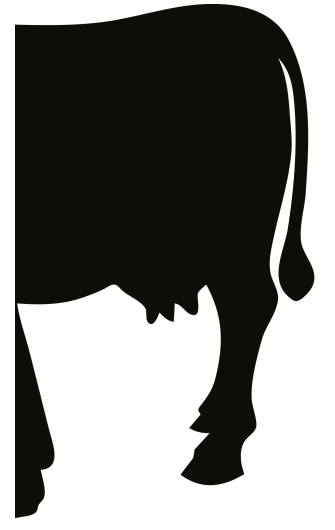
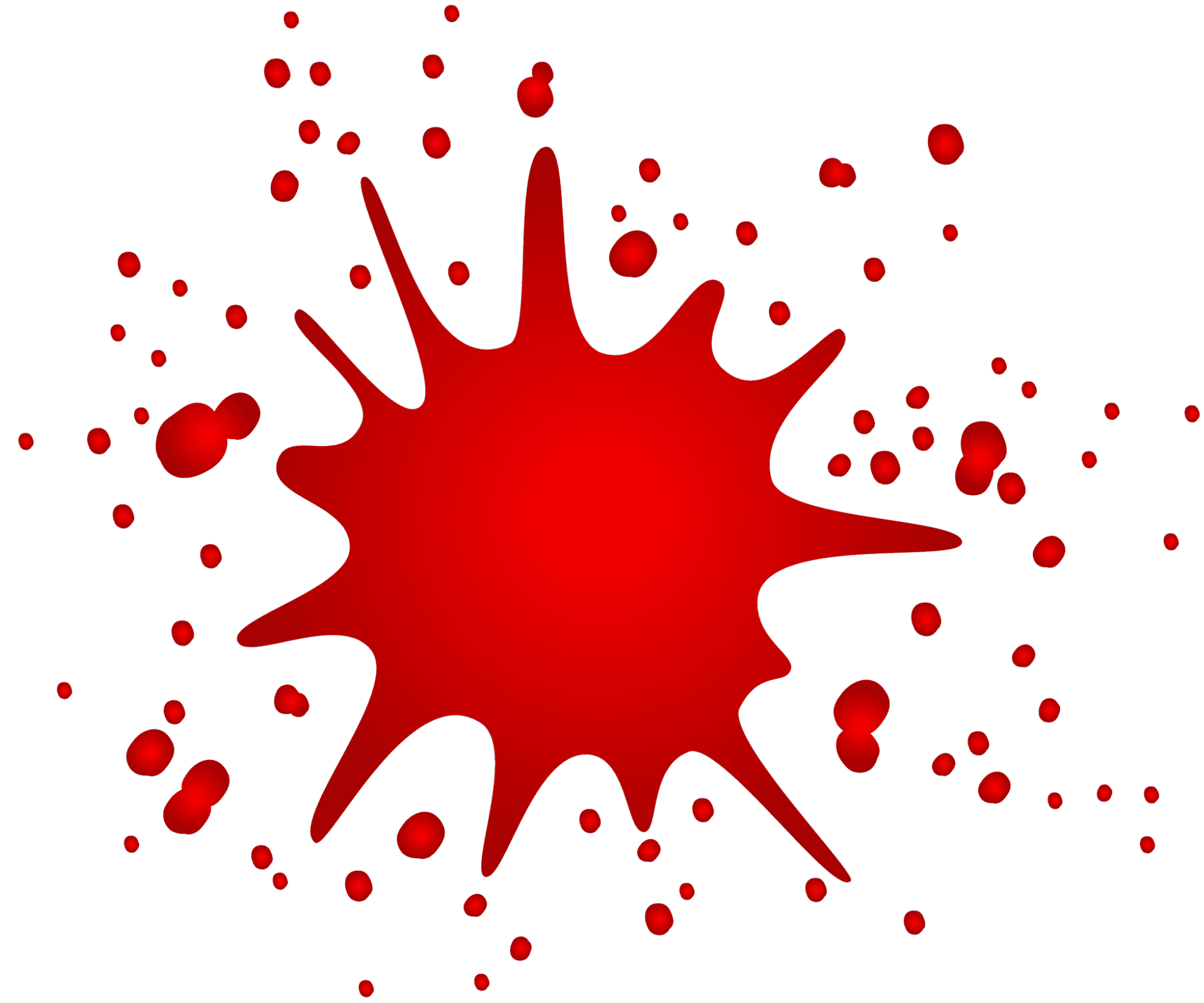
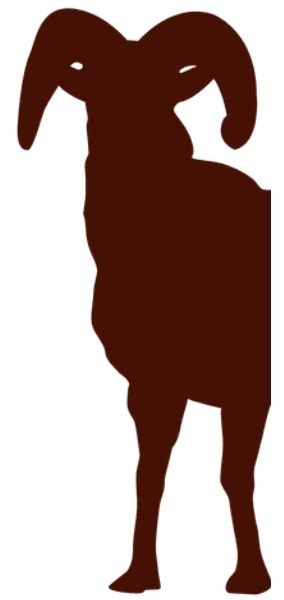
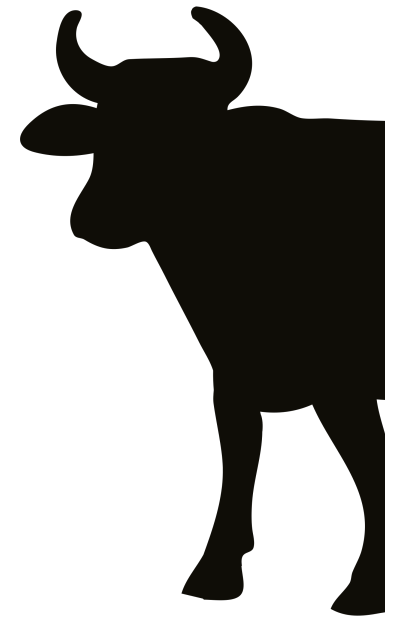
(Q) Do I believe that by my surrender to Him, faith in Christ's work on the cross is enough? Have I repented of my sin, and truly received forgiveness from the Lord? Why does God have to say "do not be afraid"?

2. Covenant material (15:8-10)

- **FORMAL RATIFICATION OF COVENANT
(communication)**

Gen. 15:8 He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?” 9 So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.





2. Covenant material (15:8-10)

- FORMAL RATIFICATION OF COVENANT (communication)
- Animal sacrifices were needed

Gen. 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Heb. 9:18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, *he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD HAS MADE WITH YOU."* 21 And in the same way he sprinkled on the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry *with the blood.* 22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, *all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

**Mosaic
Covenant**

APPLICATION

Our sin requires death.

(Q) What sins have I been thinking is “not a big deal?” Where have I been living in compromise in the places of respectable sins?

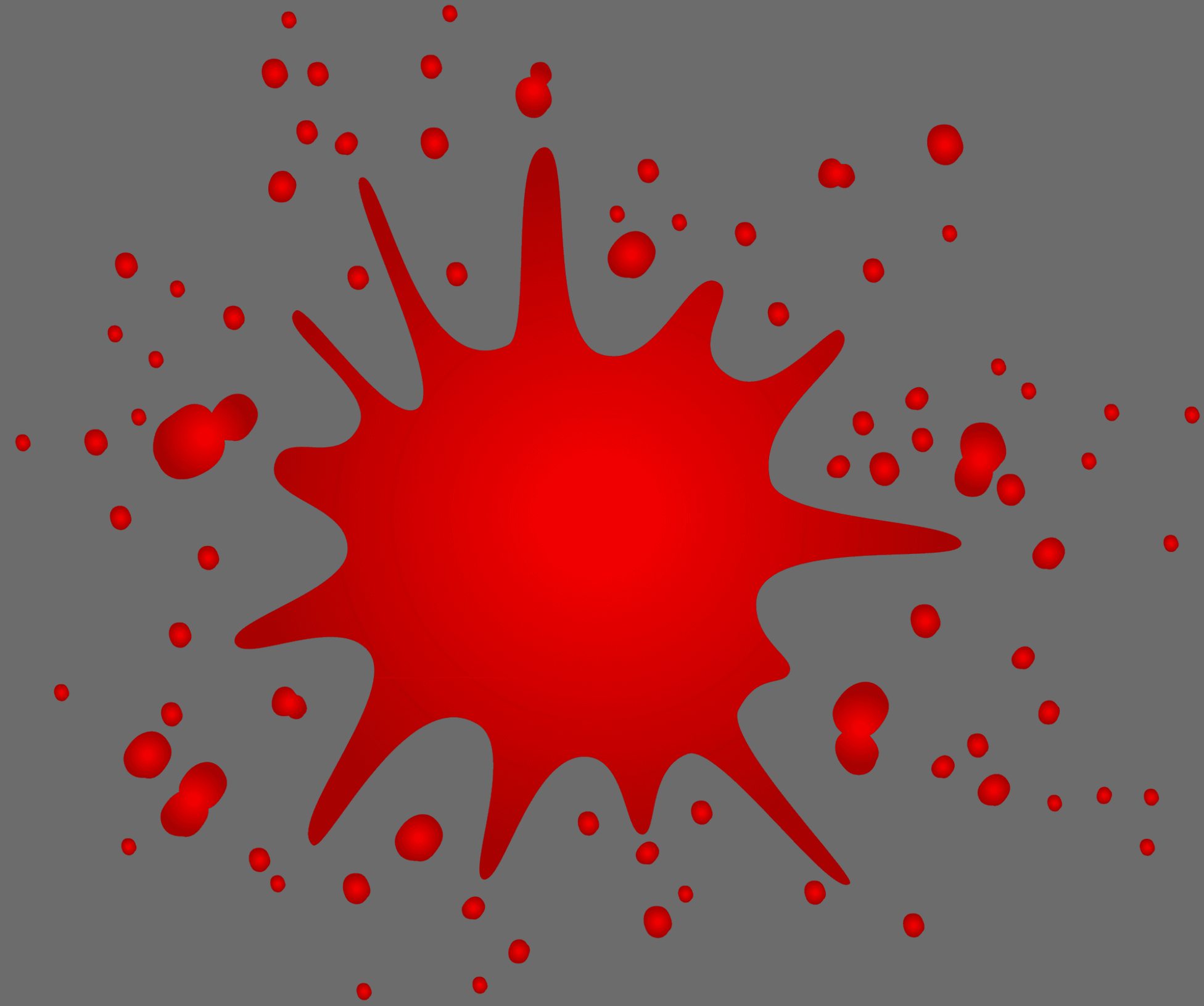
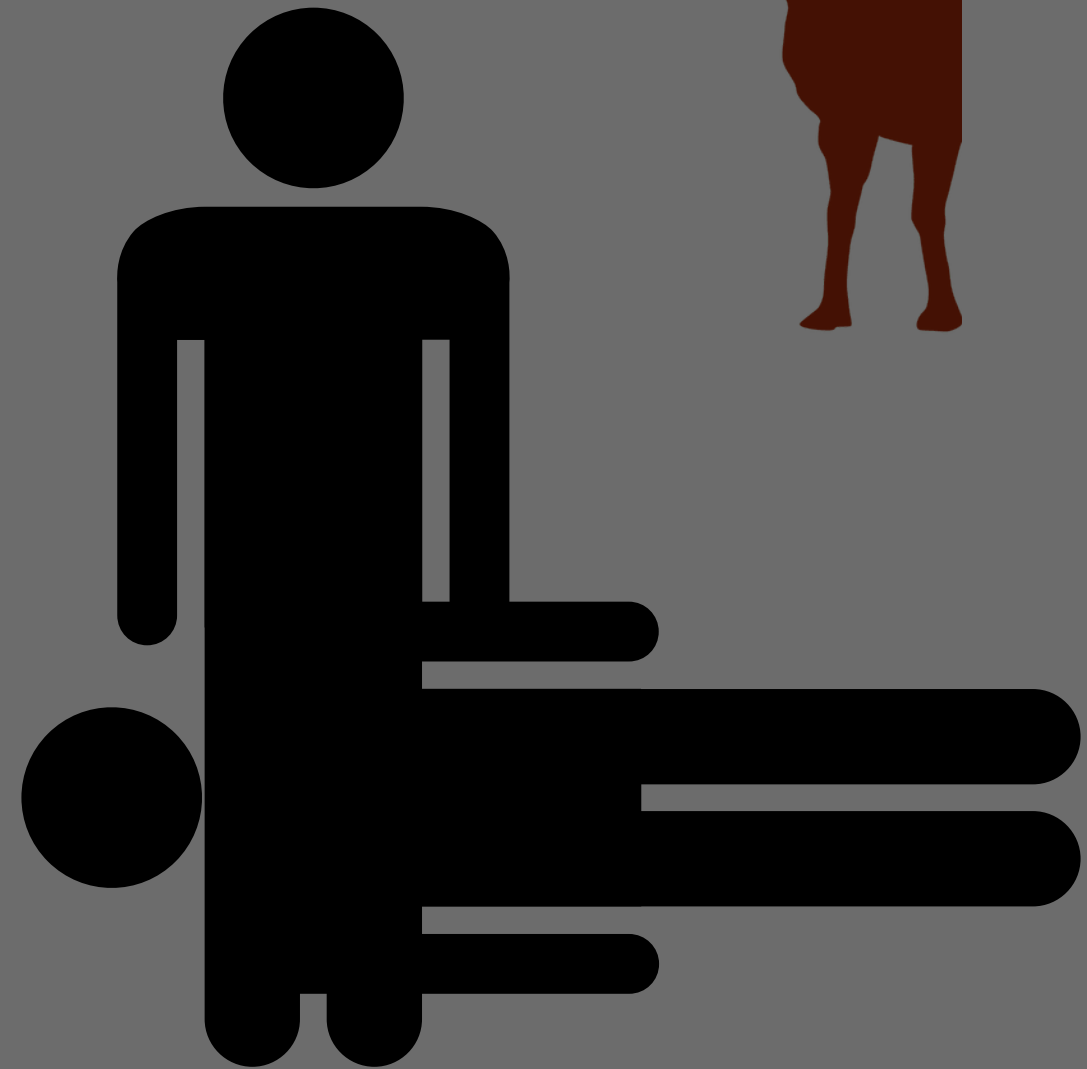
(Q) For some of us, it would be good to ask, “have I EVER really seen the weight of my sin and truly repented of them?”

3. Covenant atmosphere (15:11-12, 17)

- Birds of prey
- Darkness
- Deep Sleep
- TERROR

*Gen. 15:11 The **birds of prey** came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. 12 Now when the **sun was going down**, a **deep sleep** fell upon Abram; and behold, **terror and great darkness** fell upon him. [...]*

*Gen. 15:17 It came about when the **sun had set**, that it was **very dark**, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.*



THEOPHANY

*Ex. 19:16 So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick **cloud** upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was all in **smoke** because the LORD descended upon it in **fire**; and its **smoke** ascended like the **smoke** of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.*

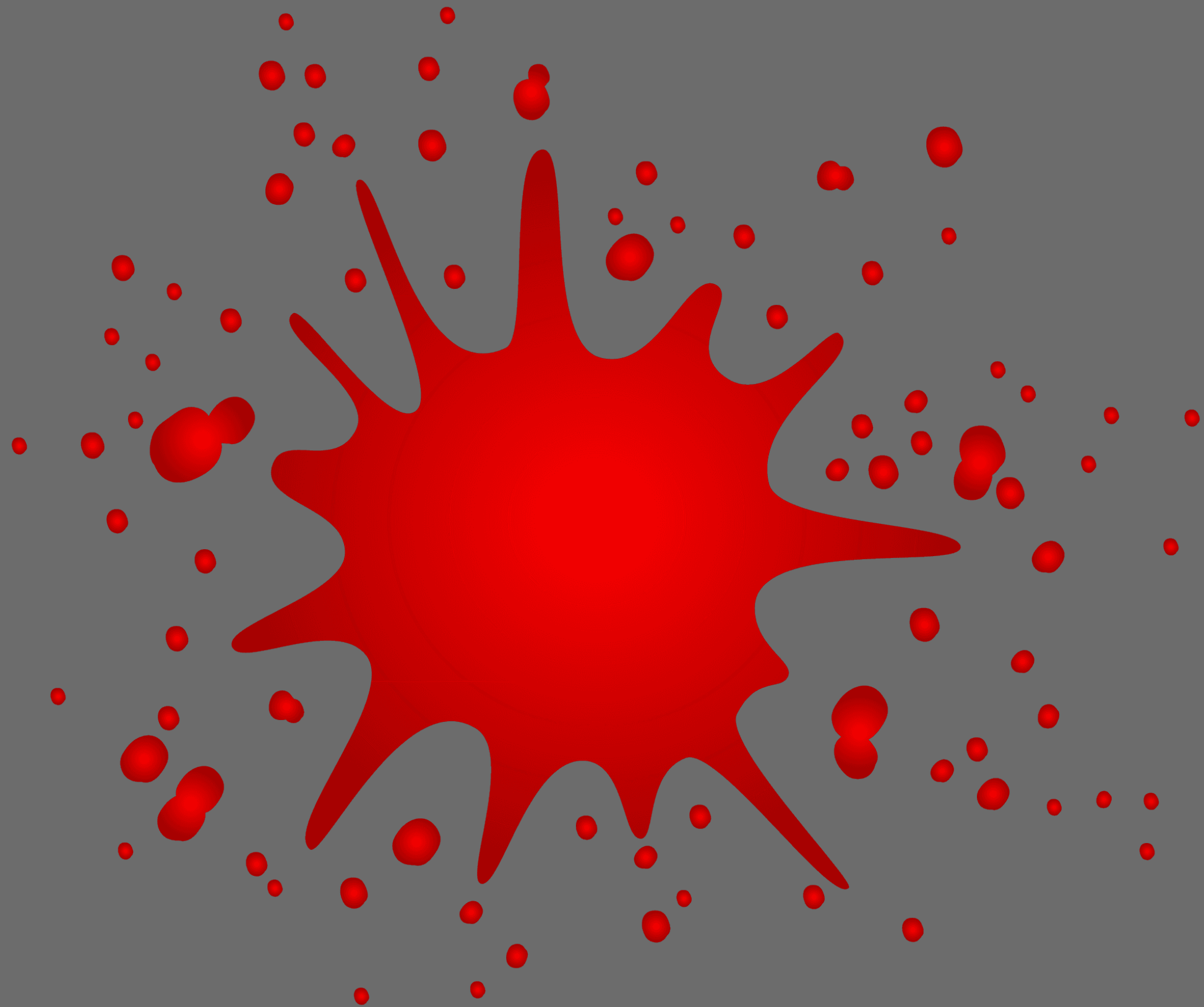
*Ex. 40:34 Then the **cloud** covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the **cloud** had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Throughout all their journeys whenever the **cloud** was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; 37 but if the **cloud** was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. 38 For throughout all their journeys, the **cloud** of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was **fire** in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.*

2Chr. 7:1 Now when Solomon had finished praying, **fire** came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the **glory of the LORD** filled the house. 2 The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the **glory of the LORD** filled the LORD'S house. 3 All the sons of Israel, seeing the **fire** come down and the **glory of the LORD** upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."

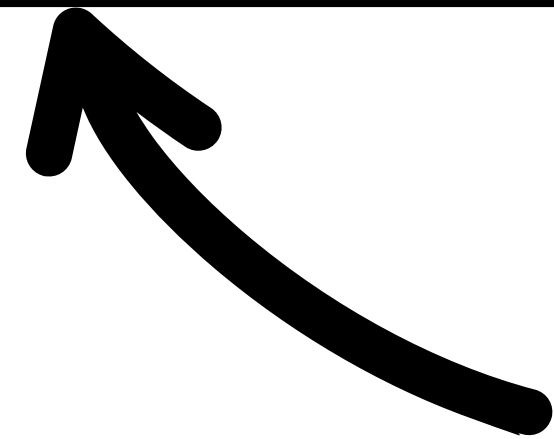
*Ezek. 1:4 As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great **cloud** with **fire** flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the **fire**.*

*Matt. 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright **cloud** overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the **cloud** said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”*

*Acts 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of **fire** distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.*



*Gen. 15:18 On that day the LORD
made a covenant with Abram...*



kārat berîṯ = “to CUT a
covenant”



*Matt. 27:45 Now from the sixth hour darkness
fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. 46
About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud
voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?”
that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN ME?”*

APPLICATION

The gift of grace is free, but it is far from cheap. The Father's wrath and anger over sin fell on Jesus.

In the gospel, belief isn't only mental assent, it is **SURRENDER OF WILL.**

(Q) If there is any unbelief in me, what does it mean about my current state of surrender? How does this belief/unbelief work itself out in the life of an unbeliever? In the life of a believer?

4. Covenant prophecy (15:13-16)

Gen. 15:13 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. 16 “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

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Ex. 12:40 Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

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Gen. 50:19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

APPLICATION

400 years of suffering incoming!

(Q) How would I respond if I knew God's promises would come after years of suffering? How would I respond to such delays? How would I respond to knowing that I might never enjoy the fruit of my obedience to Him?

5. Covenant unfurling (15:18-21)

- Even though Abram's descendants will be enslaved, it'll be for a set period of time God already knows.
- The covenant promise will not fail. It is irrevocable.

Gen. 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying,

*“To your descendants I have given this land, from the **river of Egypt** as far as **the great river**, the river Euphrates: 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.”*



PROMISED LAND

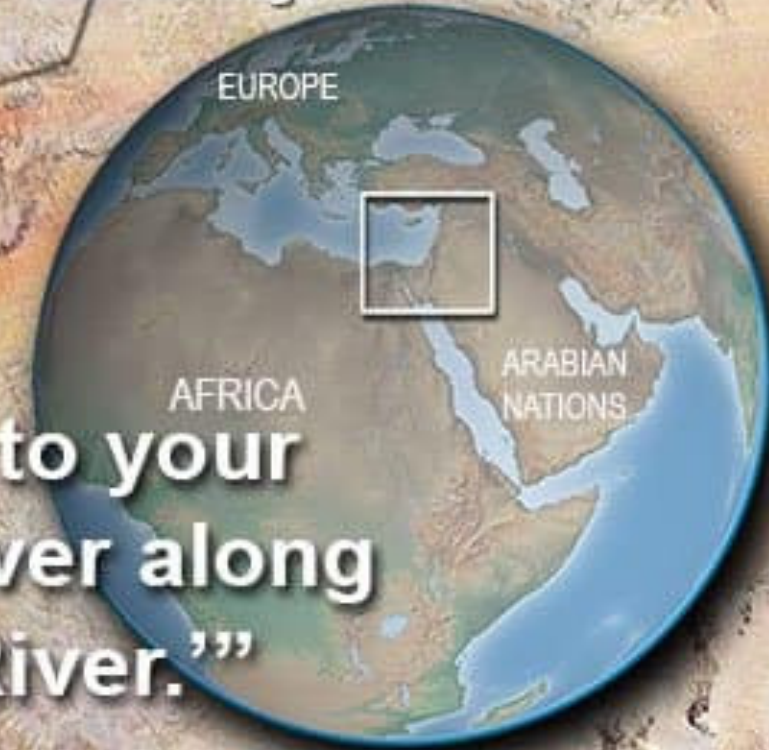
Israel, Palestinian Territories, parts of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Turkey

PROMISED LAND

“The LORD said, ‘Today I have given this land to your descendants. They own everything from the river along the border with Egypt to the great Euphrates River.’”

Genesis 15:18

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APPLICATION

God always desires to bless us. Our understanding of blessing can be skewed in this world.

(Q) Do I see God's greater plan outside of just my life?
Am I willing to yield to His will in this greater plan?

(Q) Do I see how God is blessing me in my life? Do I see Jesus as the greatest blessing?

GENESIS 16

Sarai, Hagar, and Doubt (16)

**NOT NEXT
WEEK**

IN TWO WEEKS

NEXT WEEK: Personal study questions (Genesis 16)

1. What problem is driving Sarai when she makes the suggestion to Abram? Flesh out what's going on here. (16:1-2)
2. What is Abram's response to Sarai? In what ways does this reflect some of what we saw with Adam and his wife, Eve?
3. Why would Abram agree to Sarai's idea? Was he in a place of belief or unbelief? Explain.
4. How does Hagar's attitude change after Ishmael is conceived? What about Sarai's attitude? What's causing these attitude shifts?
5. Why would the angel of the LORD come to Hagar and comfort her? What promises are extended to her offspring? Why do you think God did this?
6. Where is Hagar from? Where was Hagar headed after being thrown out? Where does God redirect her and why?
7. What was the meaning of the name "Ishmael" and what does it tell us about God in this story?
8. How does this chapter move the covenant story forward, even through human failure?

Application Questions

1. 15:1-7 Do I believe that by my surrender to Him, faith in Christ's work on the cross is enough? Have I repented of my sin, and truly received forgiveness from the Lord? Why does God have to say "do not be afraid"?
2. 15:8-10 What sins have I been thinking is "not a big deal?" Where have I been living in compromise in the places of respectable sins?
3. 15:11-12, 17 If there is any unbelief in me, what does it mean about my current state of surrender? How does this belief/unbelief work itself out in the life of an unbeliever? In the life of a believer?
4. 15:13-16 How would I respond if I knew God's promises would come after years of suffering? How would I respond to such delays? How would I respond to knowing that I might never enjoy the fruit of my obedience to Him?