Genesis 15:1-21

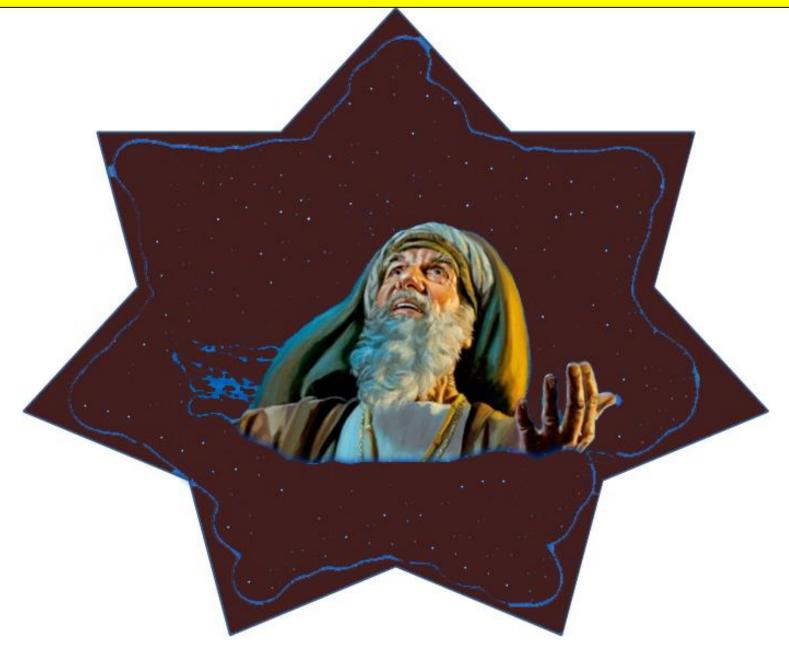
God's Covenant with Abram

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

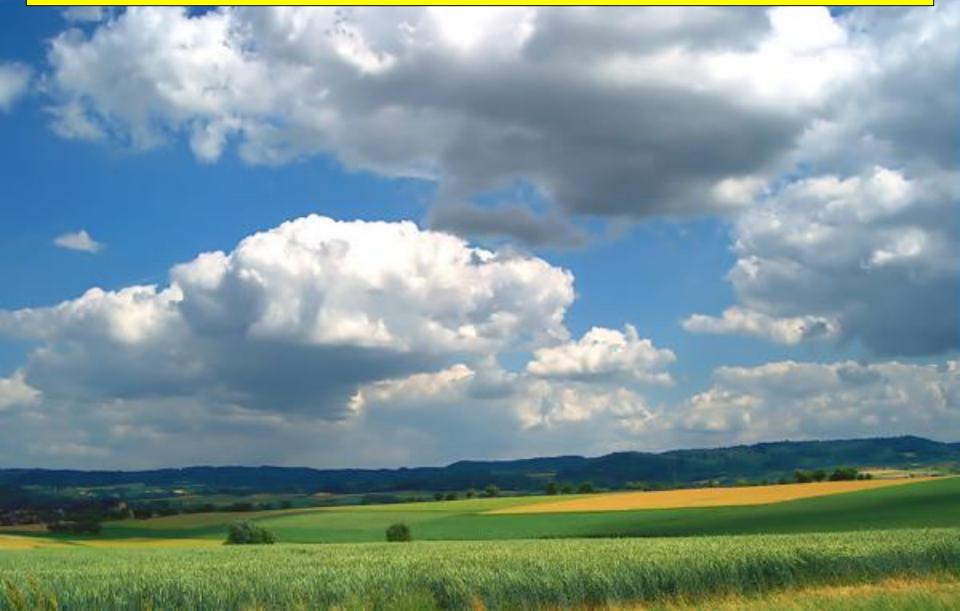


What were the effects of the battle ?

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:



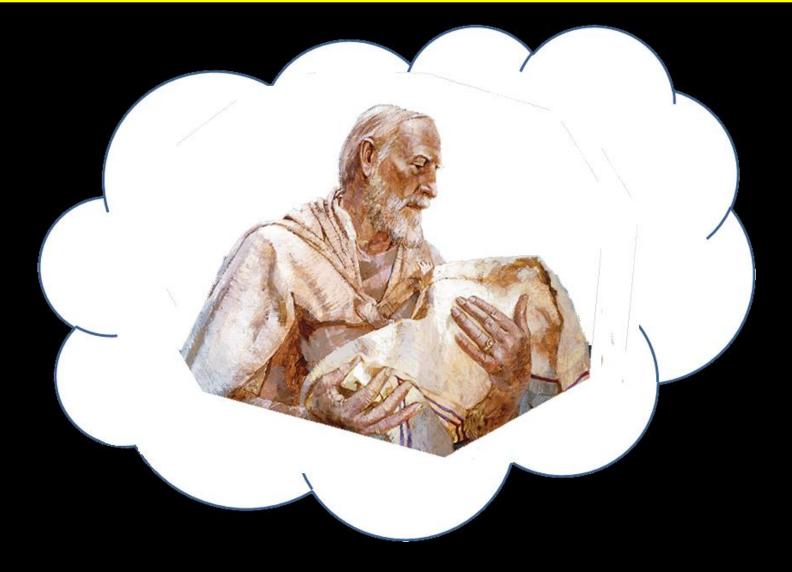
"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."



But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."



Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."



He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."



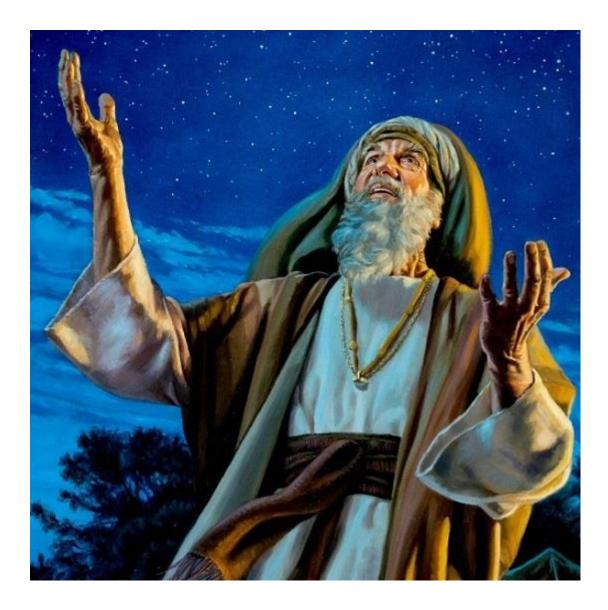
Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



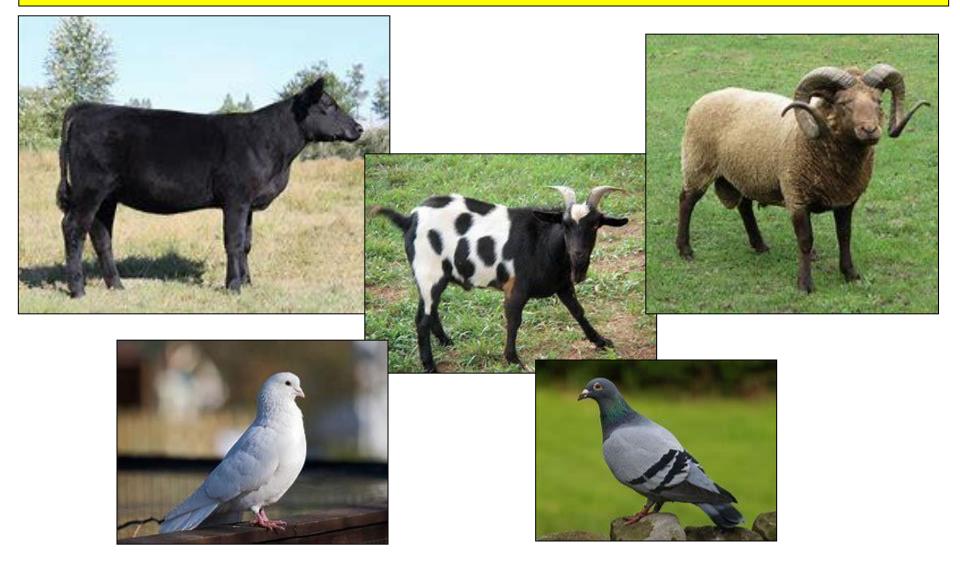
He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."



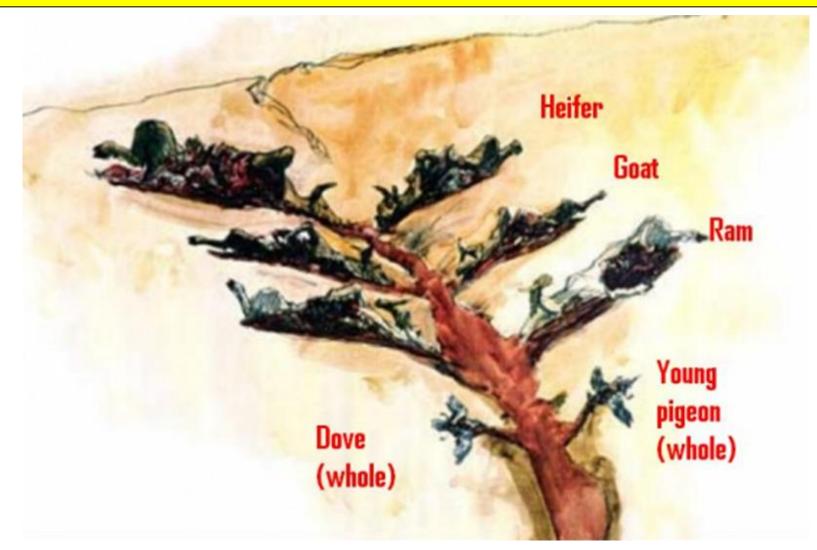
But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"



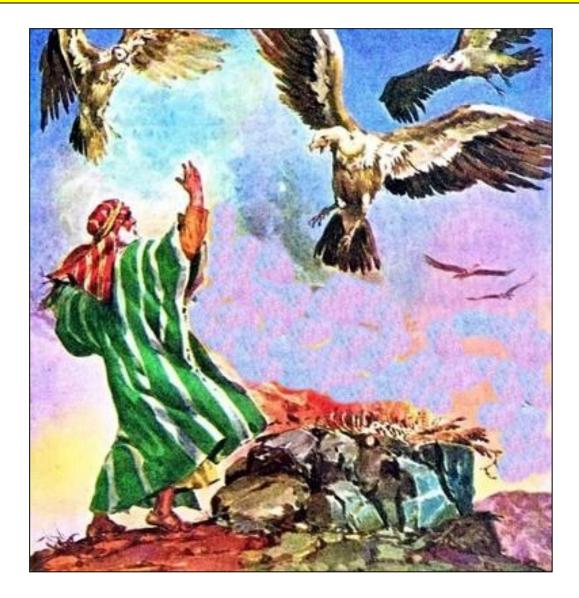
So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."



Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

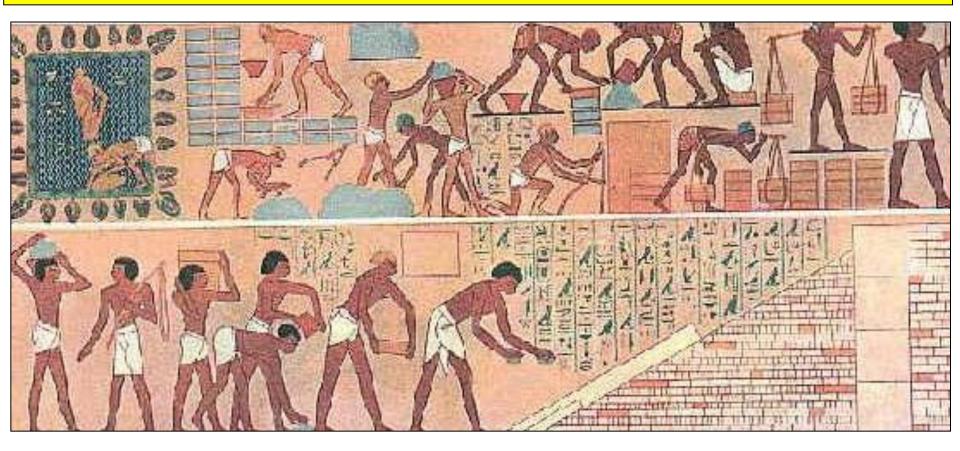


Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.



As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a **deep sleep**, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.



But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.



In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."



When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

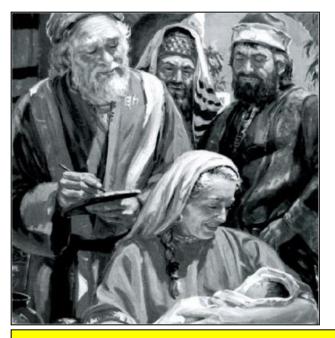


On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram

ovenant

and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates-- the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."





Luke 1:67-73 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. "

Romans 4:18-24

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousnessfor us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.



God Keeps His Promises.

"Let us hold firmly to the Hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep His promise.." Hebrews 10:23