



Genesis 12 is one of the most monumental chapters in all the Bible.

Now the LORD said to Abram, " \_\_\_\_\_ from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great \_\_\_\_\_, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be \_\_\_\_\_." (12:1-3)

- ✿ What is God doing with Abram, especially as it relates to our overall study? In your own words, what is he saying?
- ✿ Notice also Genesis 12:4-9. God made a promise to Abram, but who would benefit from the promise? Maybe Stephen's words in Acts 7:2-5 would be helpful to look at as well...
- ✿ What should we make of Abram building altars in various places? What was he doing?

Genesis 15 tells us that "the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

" \_\_\_\_\_ not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 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?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own \_\_\_\_\_ shall be your heir." 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." And he \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (15:1-6)

- ✿ What is the LORD doing, and what should we really appreciate about Abram?

Let's take the time to carefully read what happened next in Genesis 15:7-21. It's a scene that may be hard for us to understand...

And he said to him, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 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." And he brought him all these, cut them in \_\_\_\_\_, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

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

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming \_\_\_\_\_ passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a \_\_\_\_\_ with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land..."

☀ What is the LORD revealing to Abram in 15:12-16?

☀ Genesis 15:18 is the first time God uses the word "covenant" with Abram. What do you think Abram took away from this experience?

Genesis 17 is another monumental scene in Abram's life when the LORD changes his name ("exalted father") to Abraham ("father of a multitude").

☀ After repeating his intention to "establish" a covenant, what did God say he expected of Abraham and his offspring in 17:9? What would be the "sign" of this covenant?

☀ How does Abraham's life and what the LORD did with him and through him help us understand the promises and covenants of the Bible? New Testament passages like Hebrews 11:8-16 and Galatians 3:26-29 might be helpful here...