

THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

By Kevin E. Hughes

Our Approach to the Study of Covenants

We are studying the **Covenants** for ourselves. [Not adopting an existing Theology on Covenants]

We are starting in Genesis and working forward through the Old Testament to understand how **they** are **Chronologically** and **Progressively Revealed** and how each **Covenant** builds on or does not build on each previous **Covenant**.

The COVENANT Definition – Update One

COVENANT Definition: Update One

COVENANT of **GOD**. A **Promise** of **God**, always initiated and established by **God**, **Gen 6:18, 9:9, 11, 17** between **God** and a **Person**, a **People** Group, or all **Living** things, **Gen 9:10, Gen 9:17**, according to **His** Plan, Purpose and Will.

COVENANT of **GOD**. as “**Promises**”, often with “**I will**” or “**I shall**” statements, that “will come to pass”. IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding conditions for **God** to fulfill both parties’ obligations then it was considered a **Unilateral** or **Un-Conditional Covenant**.

IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding conditions for **God** to fulfill, **God’s** Part, and separate conditions for **Man** to fulfill, **Man’s** Part, then it was considered a **Bi-lateral** or **Conditional Covenant**.

COVENANT of **GOD**, often has **offered burnt (killed) offerings**, **Gen 8:20, Gen 22:2, Rom 8:3**

COVENANT of **GOD**, often has “**a sign**” to “remember” or to identify with, that **Covenant**, **Gen 9:12**

COVENANT of **GOD**, is often identified as an “**everlasting covenant**”, **Gen 9:16, Gen 17:7, Jer 32:40**

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Gen 12:1-3, 7**

The **Calling** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans**, **Gen 12:1, Gen 15:7, Acts 7:2-3**

The **Sending** of **Abram** – in **Ur of the Chaldeans** to **Go to the Land of Canaan**, **Gen 11:31, 12:5**

The **Promise** of **Making** of **Abram**, into a **great nation** with a **great name**, **Gen 12:2**

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **Abram**, **Gen 12:2**

The **Promise** of **Blessing** of **all the families** of **the earth**, will be in **Abram**, **Gen 12:3**

The **Promise** of: **The Lord** giving the **Land** to **Abram**, and **his Physical Descendants**, **Gen 12:7**

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Gen 13:14-17**

The **Promise** of giving **Abram** and **his descendants** all the **Land of Canaan forever**, **Gen 13:15, 13:17**

The **Promise** of **Abram descendants** being innumerable, as dust of **the Earth**, **Gen 13:16**

Historical Background – to establish Context

Genesis 14:1-12 The War of the 4 **Kings** of Mesopotamia with the 4 **Kings** of Canaan

Discuss Genesis 14:1-12

The 4 **Kings** > (from Land of Shinar or Babylonia or Mesopotamia), Genesis 14:1

Chedorlaomer, King of Elam (later kingdom of Persia or Iran)

Amraphel, King of Shinar (the Land of Shinar, Babylonia)

Arioch, King of Ellasar (leading tribe S. Babylonia)

Tidal, King of Goiim (probably a tribe of NE Babylonia)

Came to Make War with >

The 5 **Kings** > (in the Valley of Siddim, in **Land of Canaan**), Genesis 14:2

Bera King of Sodom, (probably just South of Dead Sea) (where **Lot** lived)

Birsha King of Gomorrah, (probably just South of Dead Sea)

Shinab King of Admah, (probably just South of Dead Sea)

Shemeber King of Zeboiim, (probably just South of Dead Sea)

(unnamed) **King of Bela (Zoar)**. (probably just South of Dead Sea) (where **Lot** fled)

The 5 **Kings** served **Chedorlaomer, King of Elam**, 12 years, but rebelled the 13th year

In the 14th year **Chedorlaomer** and the 3 **Kings** with him, came from NW and defeated

The 4 **Kings** First Defeated: Genesis 14:5

the **Rephaim** (Giants) (in Ashteroth-karnaim both sides of the Jordan River)

the **Zuzim** (Giants) (in Ham S. of Rephaim and E. of Jordan)

the **Emim** (Giants) (in Shaveh-kiriathaim in Moab)

the **Horites** (Giants) (in their Mount Seir as far as El-paran, Wilderness, SW of Dead Sea)

the **Amalekites** (Lived in Dead Sea Area)

the **Amorites** (who lived in Hazazon-tamar, Dead Sea and Canaan)

The 5 **Kings** > (in the **Valley of Siddim**, in **Land of Canaan**) arrayed for battle against the 4 **Kings**

Now the **Valley of Siddim** was full of tar pits; and the **kings** of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** fled,

and **they** fell into them. But **those** who survived fled to the hill country. Genesis 14:8-10

Then the (4 **Kings**) took all the goods of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** and all **their** food supply, and departed.

They (4 **Kings**) also **took Lot**, **Abram's** nephew, and **his** possessions and departed, **he** was living in **Sodom**.

The 4 Kings Make War



Historical Background – to establish Context

Abram the Hebrew and his allies, seek and defeat, the 4 Kings of Mesopotamia

Discuss Genesis 14:13–16

Hearing of the invasion and of the capture of Lot, Abram mustered his 318 trained men and together with his allies (v. 13) pursued and defeated the (4 Kings) in a night attack. He pursued them all the way to Dan, the future northern border of the Promised Land (140 miles from Abram's home in Hebron). Dan was then named Leshem (Josh. 19:47) or Laish (Jud. 18:29). During the night Abram pursued them on to Hobah, another 100 miles north of Dan, and brought back ... Lot and his possessions and family and other captives. This was a striking victory for the patriarch over (4 Kings) who had previously conquered such an extensive portion of Transjordan and the area south of the Dead Sea.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

After Battle, Abram meets Bera King of Sodom and Melchizedek King of Salem (Zion)

Read Genesis 14:17–24

17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the (4) kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (the King's Valley). (Zion, 2 Sam 18:18)

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem (Like Jesus, Heb 7:1-10)

brought out bread and wine; (Like Last Supper, Matt 26:26-28)

now he was a priest of God Most High. (Like Jesus, Psalm 110:1-7, Heb 5:5-10, 6:20, 7:1-8:13)

19 He (Melchizedek) blessed him (Abram) and said,

“Blessed be Abram (Covenant, Gen 12:2) of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” (Like Jesus, Ps 110:1)

He (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a tenth of all. (Heb 7:4)

Melchizedek (King of righteousness) king of Salem (Peace, Zion) (Heb 7:2)

and Jesus is King of Zion (Jer 8:19, Zech 9:9, Matt 21:5, John 12:15)

and Jesus is King of Peace (Isa 9:6, Rom 5:1,)

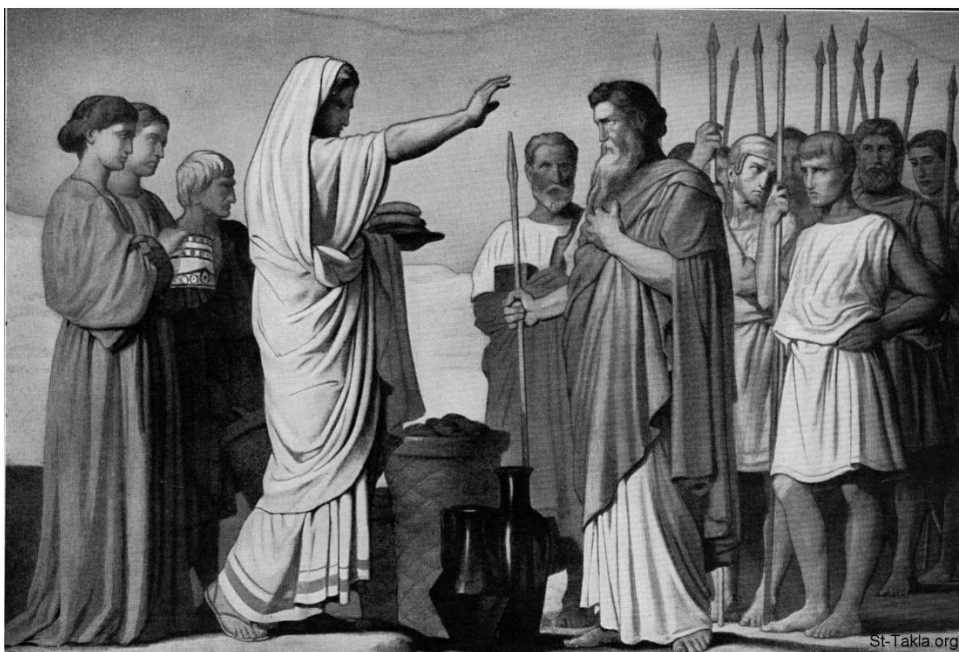
Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High (Gen 14:18)

and Jesus is a priest of God Most High (Ps 110:7, Heb 5:5-6, 6:20)

and Jesus is a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek (Ps 110:4, Heb 5:6, 10, 6:20, 7:17)

God Most High, delivered Abram's enemies into his hand

and The LORD (the Father) will make Jesus's enemies a footstool for His feet. (Ps 110:1)



GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS – PART 3A

Working Outline > **Genesis 15:1-11** (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read Genesis 15:1-11 Abram was 85 years old (86-1), **Gen 16:16**

- I. 1 After these things **the word of the Lord** came to **Abram** in a **vision**, (Like Prophets)
 - A. saying, “Do not fear, **Abram**, (Like Hagar, **Gen 21:17**, Like Isaac, **Gen 26:24**)
 - B. **I am** a shield to **you**; (**Deut 33:29**, **Ps 3:3**, **2 Sam 22:3**)
 - C. **Your** reward shall be very great.”
- II. 2 **Abram** said, “O **Lord God**, what will **You** give **me**,
 - A. since **I** am **childless**, and the **heir** of **my** house is **Eliezer** of Damascus ?”
- III. 3 And **Abram** said, “Since **You** have given **no offspring** to **me**, one born in **my** house is **my heir**.”
- IV. 4 Then behold, **the word of the Lord** came to **him**, saying,
 - A. “This **man** (Eliezer) will **not** be **your heir**;
 - B. but one who will come forth from **your own body**, **he** shall be **your heir**.”
- V. 5 And **He** (**the Lord**) took **him** outside and said,
 - A. “Now look toward the heavens, and count **the stars**, if **you** are able to count **them**.” **Gen 26:4**
 - B. And **He** (**the Lord**) said to **him**, “So shall **your descendants** be.”
- VI. 6 Then **he** (**Abram**) **believed** in **the Lord**; and **He** reckoned **it** (**believing**) to **him** as **righteousness**.
- VII. 7 And **He** (**the Lord**) said to **him** (**Abram**),
 - A. “**I am the Lord** who brought **you** out of **Ur of the Chaldeans**,
 - B. to give **you** this **land** (**Canaan**) to possess **it**.”
- VIII. 8 **He** (**Abram**) said, “O **Lord God**, how may **I know** that **I** will possess **it** (**the land**) ?”
 - A. 9 So **He** (**the Lord**) said to **him**,
 - B. “Bring **Me** a three year old **heifer**, and a three year old **female goat**,
 - C. and a three year old **ram**, and a **turtledove**, and a **young pigeon**.”
- IX. 10 Then **he** (**Abram**) brought all these to **Him** and **cut** them in two,
 - A. and laid each half opposite the other;
 - B. but **he** (**Abram**) did **not cut** the **birds**.
- X. 11 The **birds of prey** came down upon the carcasses, and **Abram** drove **them** away.

Notice:

Abram is “childless”, **15:2**, and has “no offspring”, **15:3**, at **85 years old** (86-1), **16:16**, **Sarai** barren, **16:1** Therefore, **Abram** assumes “**one** born in **my** house is **my heir**”, **15:3**, **Eliezer** of Damascus, **15:2** but **the Lord** says, “**one** who will come forth from **your own body**, **he** shall be **your heir**.” **15:4** This establishes, by **promise**, that **Abram's heir** will be a physical **descendant** from his “**own body**”

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Genesis 15:1-11**

The **Promise** of **one** who will come forth from **your own body**, **he** shall be **your heir**, **Gen 15:4**

The **Promise** of **Abram descendants** being innumerable, as **the stars**, **Gen 15:5**, **Gen 26:4**

The **Promise** of **the Lord** reckoned **it** (**believing**) to **him** as **righteousness**, **Gen 15:6**

The Lord Brought Abram – out of **Ur of the Chaldeans**, to give and possess **land** (**Canaan**), **Gen 15:7**

The **Promise** of giving **Abram** the **Land of Canaan** to possess **it**, **Gen 15:7**,

Abram will know possess **Land**,

by **Abram** providing and **cutting** a **heifer**, **female goat**, and a **ram**, not **birds**, **Gen 15:6**

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS — PART 3B

Working Outline > **Genesis 15:12-21** (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read **Genesis 15:12-21**

- I. 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; (Like Adam, Gen 2:21)
 - A. and behold, terror and great darkness (15:17) fell upon him. (was about to fall on him)
- II. 13 God said to Abram,
 - A. “Know for certain
 - B. that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, (aliens)
 - C. where they (descendants) will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.
 - D. 14 “But I will also judge the nation whom they (descendants) will serve,
 - E. and afterward they (descendants) will come out with many possessions. Ex 12:36
 - F. 15 “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace;
 1. you will be buried at a good old age.
 - G. 16 “Then in the fourth generation they (descendants) will return here (Canaan),
 1. for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.” (God’s Timing)
- III. 17 It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark (15:12),
 - A. and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch (representing God)
 1. which passed between these pieces (of heifer, female goat, and a ram). Jer 34:18-19
- IV. 18 On that day the Lord made (cut) a covenant with Abram, saying, (Gen 17:2, 4, 7)
 - A. “To your descendants I have given this land, Gen 12:7
 1. From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: (Ex 23:31, Deut 1:7-8)
 - B. 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite
 - C. 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim
 - D. 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.” (Ex 3:17, Jos 24:11)

Notice:

at sun down, a deep sleep (was about to) fall upon Abram; and terror and great darkness fell upon him.

Q1: In verse 13, what is a common name given for “strangers in a land that is not theirs”

A1: aliens or “sojourners” (Abram sojourned, 12:10, 17:8, 20:1, 21:34, 23:4) (Jacob sojourned, 28:4, 37:1, 47:9)

Q2: In verse 13, it says, “they will be enslaved and oppressed 400 years”, is that what occurred ?

A2: Enslaved and Oppressed, 400 years ???

We Know > sons of Israel were Enslaved in Egypt, Ex 1:11-14

We Know > sons of Israel were Not Enslaved for 400 yrs. How Do We Know ?

Not Enslaved > when they entered Egypt, when Joseph Ruler, Gen 45:8

Not Enslaved > from Entering Egypt, Gen 45:8, to Death of all 12 Sons, Ex 1:6

Not Enslaved > Until New King arose, who didn't know Joseph, Ex 1:8

So > Not Enslaved Time was from entering Egypt, Until a New King arose, Ex 1:8

We Know > Enslaved from a New King arose, Ex 1:8, to time of Exodus, (Ex 1:11-14 to 12:40)

“Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, (Canaan & Egypt)

(where they will be enslaved and oppressed) four hundred years.

Notice: Parenthetic Addition, (“where they will be enslaved and oppressed”)

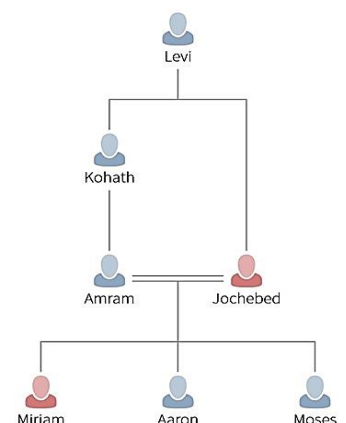
Q3: In verse 16, it says, “in the fourth generation they will return here (Canaan)”

What 4 Generations of the sons of Israel were in Egypt, up to the Time of the Exodus ?

A3: We know this, through Levi’s 4 Generations:

1st Levi, 2nd Kohath, Ex 6:16, 3rd Amram, Ex 6:18, 4th Moses, Ex 6:20.

Levi and Kohath, came with Jacob when he came to Egypt, Gen 46:1-7



Therefore, **Moses** was, the **fourth generation of** (of those who entered **Egypt**), who returned to **Canaan**.

In **verse 12**, “Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell (was about to fall) upon **Abram**; and behold, terror and **great darkness** fell upon **him**.”

In **verse 17**, “when the sun had set, that it was **very dark**” (then, a deep sleep fell upon **Abram**) and behold, there appeared a **smoking oven** and a **flaming torch** (representing **God**) which passed between pieces (of **heifer**, **female goat**, and a **ram**), But Not turtledove, pigeon.

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Genesis 15:12–21**

The **Promise** of “**your descendants** will be strangers in a **land** that is **not theirs**”, **400 years**, **Gen 15:13**

The **Promise** of “**they** will be **enslaved** and **oppressed**” in a **land** that is **not theirs**, **Gen 15:13**

The **Promise** of **the Lord**, “**I will** also **judge the nation** whom **they** will serve”, **Gen 15:14**

The **Promise** of “afterward **they** will come out with many possessions”, **Gen 15:14**

The **Promise** of “**you** shall go to **your fathers** in peace; **you** will be buried at a good old age”, **Gen 15:15**

The **Promise** of “in the fourth generation **they** will return here”, **Gen 15:16**

The **Promise** of “To **your descendants** **I** have given this **land**”, **Gen 15:18**

The **Covenant** with **Abram** giving this **land** (**Canaan**) from **river** of **Egypt** to **river** **Euphrates**”, **Gen 15:18**

The Lord's Part of the **Covenant Ceremony**

The **Lord** initiates and sets terms of the **Covenant Ceremony**

The **Lord** passes through the **Cut** in half animals in the **Covenant Ceremony**, (like **Jer 34:18-19**)

When a **Covenantor** passes between **Cut** animals he **Promises** to fulfill his part of the **Covenant**

The **Lord** states all the **Promises** **He** will and must fulfill as **His** part of the **Covenant**, **Gen 15:13-16, 18-21**

The **Lord** **Cut** (made) a **Covenant** with **Abram** that day, **Gen 15:18** (again in, **Gen 17:2, 4, 7**)

The **Lord** **Cut** (made) **Ratified** a **Covenant** with **Abram** that day, **Gen 15:18**

Abram's Part of the **Covenant Ceremony**

Abram provides the animals and the birds for the **Covenant Ceremony**, as instructed, **Gen 15:10**

Abram **Cuts** the animals in half, but not the Birds, in the **Covenant Ceremony**, as instructed, **Gen 15:10**

Abram the **Covenantee** sleeps and Does Not pass through the **Cut** animals, as **the Lord** did, **Gen 15:12**

Abram Does Not **Promise** or told, **he** will do anything to fulfill any part of the **Covenant**, so Unconditional.

Another way to Define a **Covenant** [see **Lesson 02**, for more on **Ratifying**]

COVENANT (ברית, **berith**; **Hebrew**, διαθήκη, **diathēkē**, **Greek**).

A **sacred** kinship bond between two parties, **ratified** by **swearing** an **oath**. **Num 30:2** *Lexham Dictionary*

The **Lord** **swore** by **Oath** to **Abram**, **His** **Covenant**. **Read** (to **Isaac**, **Gen 26:3**, to **Joseph**, **Gen 50:2**)

The **Lord** keeps **His** **Covenant** that **He** **swore** by **oath**. **Read** **Deut 7:6-9**

It seems that All **Covenants** are “**ratified** by **swearing** an **oath** (solemn promise)”

but some **Covenants** are also “**ratified** with **blood**”

God's Part of a **Covenant** > **God** **Ratifies** it “by **swearing** an **oath**” or “by **promise**”, **Gal 3:17**

Man's Part of a **Covenant** > **God** **Ratifies** it “by **swearing** an **oath**” or “by **promise**”, **Gal 3:17**

Galatians 3:15

15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations:

even though it is only a **man's covenant** (diathēkē - Testament, not berith),

yet when **it** has been **ratified**, no **one** sets **it** aside or adds **conditions** to **it**.

God's **Covenants**, when **ratified**, no **one** sets the **covenant** aside or adds **conditions** to the **covenant**.

When **God** **Ratifies** **His** **Covenant**

no one sets **it** aside or adds conditions to **it**

Gal 3:15

it does not invalidate a previous **promise**

Gal 3:17

Covenants of **God** > as **Ratified** (inaugurated) by **Blood** [see Lesson 02, for more on Ratifying] Greek, ἐγκαινίζω: inaugurated (ratified), to cause something to go into effect, 'to put into effect, to put into force, to establish, Heb 9:18 Greek-English lexicon of the NT

Abrahamic and **Mosaic Covenants** > were **Ratified** (inaugurated) with **Blood** of animals, Gen 15:9-18

New Covenant > was **Ratified** (inaugurated) with **Blood** of **Jesus**, Matt 26:28, Heb 9:12

Covenants are **Ratified** (inaugurated) with **Blood**, because the **Life** of the **flesh** is in the **blood**

'For the **life** of the **flesh** is in the **blood**, and I have given **it** to **you** on the altar to make **atonement** for **your** souls; for **it** is the **blood** by reason of the **life** that makes **atonement**.' , Lev 17:11

Abrahamic Covenant – Gen 15:1-11

Abrahamic Covenant is progressively revealed in the following passages.

Gen 12:1-3, 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:1-11

Gen 17:1-14

Gen 18:18-19

Gen 22:9-19



Promise of: **one** from **your** (Abram's) **own body**, **he** shall be **your heir**, Gen 15:4

Promise of: **Abram descendants** being innumerable, as the stars, Gen 15:5

Promise of: **the Lord** reckoned **it**, (**believing**) in **Him**, as **righteousness**, Gen 15:6

Promise of: giving **Abram** the **Land of Canaan** to possess it, Gen 15:7

know **Abram** possess **Land** by **cutting** a heifer, goat, and a ram, Gen 15:9, 18

Physical Heir Promise: from (Abram's) **own body**, **he** shall be **your heir**, 15:4

Physical Descendants Promise Number: as the stars (innumerable), 15:5

Righteousness Promise: (**believing**) in **Him**, as **righteousness**, 15:6

The Land Promise Possession : giving **Abram** the **Land of Canaan** to possess it, 15:7

[Also no mention of, **all the families** (nations) of **the earth**, as in 12:3]

Abram

+

Land of Canaan

+

Abram's Descendants

Abrahamic Covenant – Gen 15:12-21

Abrahamic Covenant is progressively revealed in the following passages.

Gen 12:1-3, 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:12-21

Gen 17:1-27

Gen 18:18-19

Gen 22:9-19



Promise of: "**your descendants** will be **strangers** in a land ...**not theirs**", 400 yrs, Gen 15:13

Promise of: "**they** will be **enslaved** and **oppressed**", Gen 15:13

Promise of: "**I** (**the Lord**) **will** also judge the nation whom **they** will serve", Gen 15:14

Promise of: "afterward (**descendants**) will come out with many possessions", Gen 15:14

Promise of: "**you** shall go to **your fathers** in peace; buried at a good old age", Gen 15:15

Promise of: "in the **fourth generation** **they** (**descendants**) will return **here**", Gen 15:16

Promise of: "To **your descendants** I have given this **land**, Gen 15:18

Covenant of: giving this **land** (Canaan) from **river** of Egypt to **river** Euphrates", Gen 15:18

Aliens Promise: "**your descendants** will be **strangers** in a land ...**not theirs**", 400 yrs, 15:13

Enslaved Promise: "**they** will be **enslaved** and **oppressed**...", 15:13

Judge Enslaving Nation Promise: **the Lord** **will** judge the nation **they** will serve", 15:14

Many Possessions Promise: **descendants** will come out with many possessions", 15:14

Peace/Longevity Promise: go to **your fathers** in peace; buried at a good old age", 15:15

Return to Canaan Promise: **fourth generation** **descendants** return to **Canaan**, 15:16

The Land Possession Promise: **Abram's descendants** given **Canaan**, Gen 15:18

The Land Boundaries Promise: this **land** (Canaan) from **Egypt** to **river** Euphrates", 15:18

Abram

+

Land of Canaan

+

Abram's Descendants