

GENESIS –Lesson 32

Learn: Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the vail. Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:17-20

Read: Genesis 15:1-21

1. The chapter starts with the phrase “after these things.” After what things?
See Genesis 14.

NOTE: God’s “word” came to Abram. God didn’t just give Abram a thought, but He spoke actual words. Words are used to express abstract and symbolic language in order to communicate ideas. The very purpose of language is that God might communicate His will to man and man might respond in praise to God. Since man was created for fellowship with God, and since fellowship requires communication, it is essential that the Creator speak to man.

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2. If man starts to use symbols for communication rather than words, or says that he will communicate with thoughts (as in so-called mental telepathy) rather than words, or loses the understanding of anything more than just the rudimentary words, so saying that the Word of God, the Bible, is not necessary, what will be the result?

3. What does the Lord tell us about the importance of His written Word? Psalm 138:2

The concept of the Word of God includes both the written Word, Holy Scripture, and the living Word, God the Second Person. After the Word was made flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ, and after He died and rose again, He proclaimed: “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending” (Revelation 1:8). He is the sum of all that can be

communicated. Alpha and Omega are, of course, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the language chosen by God in which to record in scripture His new covenant with man. This proclamation seals the oneness of the written and living Words. It should also be remembered that, prior to His incarnation, the Word often appeared to man in what is called a theophany, a preincarnate appearance of Christ.

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4. How does the Lord begin His promise to Abram? v 1
5. Many of the great claims of Christ began with the words "I am." What are those found in the following verses?

John 6:35

John 8:12

John 10:9

John 14:6

6. Concerning Jesus saying "I am," what does Exodus 3:13, 14 tell us?

7. What is Jesus telling the Pharisees and us by the use of "I am" in John 8:56-58?

8. What two things did the Lord promise Abram in verse 1?

9. What does the Lord still promise everyone who follows Him?

Ephesians 6:10, 11, 16

Ephesians 3:20; Hebrews 11:6b, 16; I Corinthians 2:9

10. This appearance of the Lord to Abram was not a dream, but a vision. Abram was awake and expressed a concern to the Lord. What was his concern? vv 2, 3

11. What was the Lord's answer to Abram? vv 4, 5

12. How did Abram respond to God's promise? v 6

13. What did Abram receive as the reward of his belief in the Lord? v 6

14. Here we see the great principle of true salvation, set forth for the first time in the Bible. How does Romans 4:3-5 further explain Genesis 15:6?

15. Again the LORD speaks and makes a promise to Abram. what was the promise? v 7

16. Abram's answering question? v 8

NOTE: We already know that Abram believed God, so this was request was not made in doubt, but rather it was an inquiry, seeking further explanation and assurance as to details.

17. What was the remarkable ceremony that God used to grant Abram's request?
vv 9-12, 17,18

NOTE: The ceremony not only confirmed the promise, but was highly instructive. The provision of imputed righteousness and full salvation is altogether God's gift of grace to man, but it would be highly costly to God. The curse of sin can be removed only by sacrifice, in the shedding of blood. Abram had known and practiced this, but now God stressed its necessary connection with His promise. One each of the five acceptable animals (cow, sheep, goat, pigeon, dove) was to be slain by Abram and laid on the altar. The slain animals were placed in two rows, one bird in each, along with a half-portion of each of the other animals. This arrangement was evidently intended to conform to the custom of the day, when covenant was made between two parties; each would pass between the two rows, as a sign that he was bound by the terms of the contract. The intimation perhaps was that, if he broke it, the substitutionary death of the animals would no longer be of benefit and he himself (or possibly his cattle) would be subject to death.

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18. Did God immediately institute the ceremony once Abram's preparations were made?
vv 11, 12

What occurred during the wait?

19. What happened as the sun was going down? vv 12-16

20. Use the following passages to help explain verse 16. Exodus 12:40-41; Galatians 3:17

21. When men made a covenant by this ceremony they would both pass through the animals showing that each person needed to keep his part of the agreement. Why was it that only God passed through the animals in this ceremony and not Abram?

22. What was this covenant based upon? Hebrews 6:13-18

23. Why does this unconditional covenant promise to Abram encourage us?
Hebrews 6:17-20