

The Abrahamic Covenant

*A quick note regarding the Leader's Guide. Please use this only as a supplement to help further discussion. The book is your guide and should be your primary resource. This leader's guide is here to provide further insight into various moments and develop greater depth in understanding. As a leader, please add your own questions from your time in the book and your time in God's Word.

****Preface Homework: Have you placed Scriptures on the two lines at the end of the Preface? If not, please do so this week.**

Remember the Offerings of Covenants:

Suzerain (God)	Vassal (Us)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Protection</u> • <u>Privilege</u> • <u>Identity</u> • <u>Provision</u> • <u>Authority</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Devotion</u> • <u>Loyalty</u> • <u>Identity</u> • <u>Representation</u>

Supplemental Questions and Commentary by Section and Page. Apply as appropriate.

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Which covenant offerings are on display as Abram built temporary alters?

Pg. 51 (A little author commentary)

As a leader, you can anticipate that many of your participants will gravitate toward the negative regarding mobility. That isn't the spirit of this question, but let it ride for a while.

Being steadfast and being mobile aren't mutually exclusive in our response to God. He may call us to be steadfast in location, but also to use the materials with which we've been equipped to be mobile as disciplers. Mobility doesn't mean you have to change locations and become a missionary in a foreign land. It can simply mean "invitation" and a willingness to open your home or possessions to others.

We tend to have a fundamental misunderstanding of blessing. Blessing is often viewed as a reward for obedience. It is actually very much the opposite. God blesses us in order to equip and empower us for obedience and purpose. Blessing does not equal reward.

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Examine each of the Psalms and the one Proverb with these as follow up questions for each: What descriptive words for God accompany shield? What is the result of God being a shield?

- Ps. 28:7 - trust, help, exultation, thankfulness

- *Ps. 18:2 - salvation*
- *Ps. 84:11 - He gives glory and grace. He does not withhold. This one is interesting because it reveals that grace comes from a position or posture of strength from the protector. If we don't view God as a shield, chances are good that we will find it difficult, if not impossible, to receive grace.*
- *Pr. 30:5 - we will be protected when God's Word is tested.*

Here in the 15th chapter of Genesis, two incredibly important moments happen. The first is God's revelation of Himself as a shield. The second is, arguably, the most pivotal moment in the Old Testament. We read in verse 6, "Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness." God revealed His position to bestow grace and the result was, Abram believed. Because God revealed Himself, Abram believed, and God proclaimed Abram, "righteous."

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God Makes the Covenant

God Establishes the Covenant

God Keeps the Covenant

God Ratifies the Covenant

A scripture that can add insight to this is 2 Timothy 2:13... "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself." Abram wasn't fully capable of perfectly carrying out the covenant. God is fully capable.

Broken Identity

Take time to discuss your impressions of this section beginning at the bottom of page 54 and ending at the top of page 56.

Consider this regarding the degree to which we castigate Sarai. As pointed out during our time with Adam and Eve, we saw that Adam was just as much to blame. He failed in his duty to protect his wife and guide her in God's Word. Here, with Sarai and Abram, it was Abram that failed in his duty to encourage his wife in patience and confidence in their Creator. Just like Adam, Abram just went along with it.

Thirteen years go unrecorded in the Bible regarding Abram. It is often used as evidence of judgment for actions in which both Abram and Sarai engaged. As stated in the book, it very well may have been that. However, it may be enlightening to consider the following: When you find that something holds true, you increase in confidence in that truth. So, in believing that God's Word is Truth, we must experience that Truth in order to grow in confidence. In 13 years, Abram experienced a walk in the Truth that God is his shield and was afforded the time it would take to grow in that confidence by repeatedly experiencing God's protection. Until he matured in this confidence, he would not have been ready for the next step God desired to take with him.

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A few items of which to take note:

- Looking back at our time in the Noahic Covenant we learned two important things about Noah. 1) Noah walked with God. 2) Noah was blameless in his time.
- God said to Abram, "Walk," and Abram fell on his face.

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God establishes the covenant with Abraham a second time. In this we see an increase in intimacy and we can see that God charges Abraham with a greater challenge. As we learn to trust God more fully, He tests us with increased challenge.

Everything I Have . . .

After examining the scriptures from John and Luke on page 61, take a look at the following statements from Genesis 22:1-18:

Vs. 4 "On the third day..." What does this reveal about Abraham?

Vs. 6 "Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son." How does Isaac's journey parallel Christ?

Vs. 7-8 "Where is the lamb? . . . God will provide for Himself the lamb. . ."

- As we saw earlier, it was God who passed through the split halves. Now, Jesus is ultimately being revealed. In Jesus, it is no longer just God in the covenant. In Jesus, you now have a Man in the covenant who is fully capable to uphold the covenant.