

Sunday, February 17, 2019

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## **Covenant**

Genesis 15:7–21

(black Bibles page 10; Children's Bibles page 30)

We have a bizarre passage today with a strange ritual. But I've heard at least one person say this is his favorite chapter in the entire Bible. Why? What does the strange ritual mean?

[1] What is a covenant?

[2] What is the "smoking firepot and flaming torch"?

[3] What is the meaning of passing between the animals cut in half?

- A "self-maledictory oath." What is this?

What kind of God is this, and why does this matter for us?

## Community Group questions

- [1] What is an example of a covenant relationship today? How is it different than an 'ordinary' relationship?
- [2] It's been said that American society tends to have fewer examples of covenantal relationships than we read about in the Bible. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
- [3] Review: what is a self-maledictory oath? For an example in a different context, see Jeremiah 34:18-20.
- [4] What is the significance of God taking this oath for Abram? For us? What do Abram's land and descendants have to do us?