

# Who's In Charge Here?

Do you ever feel that this world is out of control?  
Do you ever feel that your world is out of balance?  
Do you ever wonder – *God, what are you doing?*

## Learning from the Life of Abram & Sarai:

**Gen. 12:1-9** The Call of Abram – Leave Here and Go There

**Genesis 12:10-20** – Deception in Egypt with Pharaoh

**Genesis 13** – Conflict and Separation from Nephew Lot

**Genesis 14** – Abram rescues Lot. Abram turns down a reward of goods from the King of Sodom.

### ***Did Abram think that he had heard God right?***

Genesis 12:2 – “I will make you into a great nation ...”

Abram was well aware of his failings and his fears.  
Abram was also aware of threats and troubles.  
God does not turn from Abram, but comes *to* Abram.

### **GENESIS 15 - THE LORD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM**

<sup>1</sup> After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit<sup>[c]</sup> my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the

sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.”

Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” <sup>9</sup> So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. <sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”



## God Accommodates Himself to Us: He Appears to Abram

### I Am...

I am your **Shield** – your Protector.  
I am your **Reward** - your Provider.

God reaffirms His promise to Abram and Sarai and points to the stars as an illustration and as witnesses.

Abram – without taking another step – believes in God. This is not a matter of works, but it is a matter of relationship.

*“I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans...” Genesis 15:7a*

*“I am the LORD, your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” Exodus 20:2*

## How Can I Trust In Your Words? The Answer: **COVENANT**

**Covenant:** Made between two parties in relationship

Sealing of this covenant also notes the consequences of breaking the covenant  
– Sacrificial Offerings

## Who walks through the sacrificial offering? God Alone

This covenant is *not* dependent  
on the actions of Abram  
or the circumstances of this world...  
**IT IS SOLELY DEPENDENT ON THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

- *God is a Covenant Maker*
- *God is a Covenant Keeper*
- *God is a Covenant Fulfiller*

**Abram and Sarai do fail again...**  
and try to be in charge by using Hagar to have a son of Abram – Ishmael – but that is not the son God was going to use to bless Abraham and Sarah.

## God is in Charge

*Then, now  
& always!*