

“Your Shield” Genesis 15:1-21 1/02/22

Today, we’d like to see the title of “Your Shield” in the book of Genesis 15:1-21 (**BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR 2022!**)

To Online Word’s people, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we’d like to suggest the 3 Questions. (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0_58877518098000000000 *Maranatha Worship Songs*: Videos are seeable upon the click on the website). *YouTube Channel is not Available in China, Iran, Germany, etc. where only MP3 is available.*

Q1. In verse 1, “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward,’” explain the vision as a spiritual experience and what this verse mean? And how can we apply it to our lives?

Q2. In verses 5-6, “Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness,” what do these mean? And how can we apply these to our lives?

Q3. In verse 13, “Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years,’” list its cross-references in the Scriptures. And how could we interpret the Scriptures?

(Background for Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)

In the last chapter 14, the 5 kings allies from the area of Babylon invaded the 4 kings allies from the area of Sodom where Lot dwelt, taking persons and goods. Abram suddenly attacked the 5 kings allies with trained servants of 318 and took back goods and people including Lot. Then, the King of Sodom asked Abram to return only the persons of Sodom. But Abram said:

(Gen 14:21-24)²¹ Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.”²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,²³ that I *will* take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that *is* yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich’—²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.”

Abram knew God’s blessing him richly in light of Genesis 14:20 “God delivered your enemies into your hand” and so he did not want to give any credits to the king of Sodom other than to God alone. That’s true. Abram was the man of faith. Sadly, we sometimes see the proud ministers to steal God’s credits. Every portion should be taken from each man by the king of Sodom. Wow! God’s things to God and Caesar’s things to Caesar.

TEXT: NKJV [KJV]

Explanation

<p>¹After these things <u>the word of the LORD</u> came to Abram <u>in a vision</u>, saying, “<u>Do not be afraid</u>, Abram. <u>I am your shield</u>, <u>your exceedingly great reward</u>.”</p> <p>²But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house <u>is Eliezer of Damascus?</u>”</p>	<p>1=Q1 ...the word of the Lord.....in a vision (a vision is to see a thing in the spirit realm in a state of being awake, while a dream in a state being sleeping <i>2 Kings 6:17¹</i>; the word of God is substance and the vision is a tool/method/way to understand the word of God/God, e.g. a culture or custom might be a tool/way to understand God’s word/God – not vice versa; the vision is for God, not for men or flesh <i>Jer 23:28</i>; <i>2 Cor 12:1-6²</i>; it is a spiritual experience or an experience by the Spirit to a believer – the spiritual experiences are various such as various ways, gifts, ministries, and operations but the same Spirit works all in all <i>Heb 1:1</i>; <i>1 Cor 12:4-6³</i>; e.g. His voice, His direction, or His doing in the spirit realm, not the physical realm <i>1 Kings 19:12</i>; <i>Rev 1:10</i>; <i>Acts 13:2</i>; <i>2 Tim 1:6</i>; <i>Acts 2:17⁴</i>; it’s wrong to confine God to any one way, one gift, one ministry, or one operation); Do not be afraid (Abram might have been afraid of revenge by the 5 kings allies); your shield (God Himself is Abram’s shield or protector – Who is God? almighty, all knowing, love, etc.); your exceedingly great reward (God Himself is your exceedingly great reward; the person who has God the Spirit who provides the gifts and the fruit, AGAPE love; the person who produces various types of the AGAPE – not limited unlike earthly things – material, power, glory <i>John 4:24</i>; <i>1 Cor 6:19</i>; <i>1 Cor 12:1</i>, <i>Gal 5:22-23⁵</i>)</p> <p>2=Eliezer (it means “God my help”; the Greek Word παράκλητος PARAKLETOS; he was the eldest servant sent to search out a bride for Isaac by Abram, i.e. he was a helper or advocate for Abram, not for himself; So, he is a type of the Holy Spirit <i>Gen 24:2-4</i>; <i>John 14:16</i>; <i>2 Cor 1:22</i>; <i>2 Cor 5:5</i>; <i>John 14:26⁶</i>)</p>
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¹ *2 Kings 6:17* And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

² *Jer 23:28* “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD; *2 Cor 12:1-6* It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ⁵ Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. ⁶ For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

³ *Heb 1:1* God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets; *1 Cor 12:4-6* There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

⁴ *1 Kings 19:12* and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice; *Rev 1:10* I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet; *Acts 13:2* As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”; *2 Tim 1:6* Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands; *Acts 2:17* And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

⁵ *John 4:24* God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth; *1 Cor 6:19* Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?; *1 Cor 12:1* Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant; *Gal 5:22-23* But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

⁶ *Gen 24:2-4* So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please, put your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; ⁴ but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”; *John 14:16* And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—; *2 Cor 1:22* who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit

<p>³ Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; <u>indeed one born</u> in my house is my heir!”</p> <p>⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but <u>one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.</u>”</p> <p>⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and <u>count the stars</u> if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall <u>your descendants be.</u>” ⁶ And <u>he believed in the LORD</u>, and He <u>accounted it to him for righteousness.</u></p> <p>⁷ Then He said to him, “I <i>am</i> the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to <u>give you this land to inherit it.</u>” ⁸ And he said, “Lord GOD, <u>how shall I know that I will inherit it?</u>”</p> <p>⁹ So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old <u>heifer</u>, a three-year-old <u>female goat</u>, a three-year-old <u>ram</u>, a <u>turtledove</u>, and a <u>young pigeon.</u>” ¹⁰ Then he <u>brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other;</u> but he did not cut the</p>	<p>³=...indeed one born (really one, singular, born through Abram’s house, not blood line)</p> <p>4=one who will come from your own body...your heir (God’s word is one the singular one descendant through Abram’s blood line)</p> <p>5=Q2 ...count the stars....your descendants...(through the one descendant, innumerable descendants will come)</p> <p>6=Q2 ...he believed in the Lord (he believed in the Lord who said the verses 4 and 5); ...accounted it to him for righteousness (his belief or faith in the singular one descendant whose descendants will be innumerable was accounted for his righteousness, even if his faith was not perfect, e.g., a lie; so, salvation/righteousness through no one except Jesus <i>Gal 3:16; John 14:6; Rom 4:2-3; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Rom 1:16-17</i>)</p> <p>7= ...give you this land to inherit (this land is Canaan land in God’s covenant with Abram, called as an Abrahamic covenant)</p> <p>8=...how shall I know that I will inherit it (Abram asked how a tool, way or method to make the covenant)</p> <p>9-10=cut them in two....placed each piece opposite the other (Making two parts of animals in the symbol of two parties between God and Abram is a tool, way or method to make a covenant <i>Jer 34:18⁸</i>)</p>
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in our hearts as a guarantee; *2 Cor 5:5* Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee; *John 14:26* But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

⁷ *Gal 3:16* Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ; *John 14:6* Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me; *Rom 4:2-3* For if Abraham was justified by works, he has *something* to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”; *1 Cor 15:1-4* Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; *Rom 1:16-17* For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

⁸ *Jer 34:18* And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it—

<p>birds in two.</p> <p><u>11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.</u></p> <p><u>12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.</u> <u>13 Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.</u></p> <p><u>14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.</u> <u>15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.</u> <u>16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”</u></p> <p><u>17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.</u></p>	<p>11= ...the vultures came down on the carcasses...(a vulture or bird is always a sign of evil. Even in making the covenant with God, Satan tempted Abram. So we need prayer without ceasing <i>Mark 4:15</i>⁹)</p> <p>12= (great darkness caused Abram’s horror or great fear)</p> <p>13= Q3...your descendants will be strangers in a land ...not theirs (Egypt)...they will afflict them 400 years (Jacob’s family stayed in Egypt for 430 years by Joseph the 11th son of Jacob the prime minister of Egypt; in the first 30 years they were treated as guests while Joseph was alive, but thereafter they became slaves whom Egyptians afflicted for 400 years. So, read the Scriptures carefully. <i>Ex 12:40-41</i>¹⁰)</p> <p>14= ...the nation whom they serve I will judge (God would judge Egypt with 10 plagues)</p> <p>15= ...buried at a good old age (Abram was buried in Hebron)</p> <p>16= in the 4th generation (Moses in the 7th generation -- again read the Scriptures carefully; Abram, Isaac, Jacob, Levi – 1st, Kohath – 2nd, Amram – 3rd, and Moses – 4th; only descendants of Jacob, Israelites, or Jews would return from Egypt to Canaan land by Moses in the 4th generation from Jacob <i>Gen 50:24; Ex 6:16, 18, 20</i>¹¹; Descendants of Ishmael the Abram’s son including descendants of Esau the Isaac’s son – Edomites, called as Arabs, were excluded from the Jews <i>Gen 16:16; Gen 28:9</i>¹²)...the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete (the Amorites was one of tribes in Canaan land in verse 21; God still allowed the time to the Amorites to repent the iniquity until they come back to God, because God is patient and merciful, although often we don’t understand how much God allowed the wicked people to live <i>2 Peter 3:9</i>¹³)</p> <p>17= ...a smoking..... torch....passed between those pieces (A smoking and torch’s passing through pieces is a type of God’s passing e.g. cloud and fire moving <i>Ex 13:21</i>¹⁴)</p>
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⁹ *Mark 4:15* And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

¹⁰ *Ex 12:40-41* Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. ⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

¹¹ *Gen 50:24* And Joseph said to his brethren, “I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; *Ex 6:16, 18, 20*¹⁶ These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. And the years of the life of Levi were one hundred and thirty-seven. ¹⁸ And the sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. And the years of the life of Kohath were one hundred and thirty-three. ²⁰ Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father’s sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram were one hundred and thirty-seven.

¹² *Gen 16:16* Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram; *Gen 28:9* So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

¹³ *2 Peter 3:9* The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁴ *Ex 13:21* And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

<p>18 On the same day the LORD made <u>a covenant with Abram</u>, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, <u>from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—</u></p> <p>19 the <u>Kenites</u>, the <u>Kenezites</u>, the <u>Kadmonites</u>,²⁰ the <u>Hittites</u>, the <u>Perizzites</u>, the <u>Rephaim</u>,²¹ the <u>Amorites</u>, the <u>Canaanites</u>, the <u>Girgashites</u>, and the <u>Jebusites.</u>”</p>	<p>18=....a covenant with Abram....from the river of Egypt....to the River Euphrates (God’s covenant was much larger than the land actually occupied by the descendants through Joshua because of lack of their faith)</p> <p>19-20 = (those tribes who resided in the Canaan land)</p>
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Note: Most Christians say the Bible is important, but rarely study every word in the Bible and commit it to the Lord. So, it’s better to study it and live accordingly after the Spirit for the Lord (2 Tim 2:15). This online word for global crusade in effect develops from the expositional sermon (KJV), into spiritual transformation in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout the Bible Study (NKJV) -- *All Scripture Expository Study from verse by verse Inductive Studies* -- of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that “Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God’s Word is acceptable (2 Corinthians 10:5).” Further, for the application, a life or spiritual experience might be helpful to understand how to apply an understood word in the text column, but it is temperately used like Paul, because nobody should think above that actual experience (2 Cor 12:6, Jeremiah 23:28).

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Truth matters, regardless of online, offline, indoor, or outdoor services.



Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!

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Blessed New Year 2022!

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JANUARY 2-5, 2022

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