

Restoring the Portion *The Covenant Ratified*

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Genesis 15:8-18 NIV

⁸But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”⁹ 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.”¹⁰ 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. ¹¹Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³Then 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. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” ¹⁷When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸On 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—

1. **Abram Desired a Sign.**

2. **God Alone Ratified the Covenant.**

3. **Certainty= *Who God is.***

Conclusion: God guaranteed the covenant’s success, requiring only our faith, trust and obedience. His desire is for us to live confident in this truth: His promises cannot fail.

LIFE GROUP LESSON *The Covenant Ratified*

Week of January 25th, 2026- January 31st, 2026

Ice Breaker: What is your trust in God *or not*, based upon?

Read Genesis 15:8-18.

1. What did Abram need and ask for? (v.8) Was this a valid question?
2. How did God respond? (v.9)
3. How did Abram then respond? (v.10)
4. This was a familiar custom in Abram’s day to signify the importance of upholding a covenant agreement. What does this show you about how God chose to answer Abram’s desire for certainty?
5. What did that visual symbolize about the fate of one who broke covenant?
6. What was God saying to Abram about His intentions?
7. What do we see happening in v. 11? What does this tell us about the time frame this was taking? What might they represent?
8. Where else do we see “birds of prey”? Who is God referring to? Isaiah 46:8-11, Jeremiah 12:9, Ezekiel 17:3, Habakkuk 1:8.
9. What happened to Abram? (v.12) What did he experience? Why?
10. What did God make known about the path to the promise? (v.13)
11. Why might God allow for this to happen to Israel?
12. What was the assurance? (v.14)
13. What was the promise to Abraham? (v.15) What is God sparing Abraham from?
14. What do we learn about why God allowed the Amorites to be overtaken by Israel later? What do you see in God’s nature? (v.16)
15. What is the significance of how this covenant was ratified? Who walked between the halves of animals? How did God appear? (v.17)
16. Where else have you seen God represented as smoke or fire?
17. Who then bears the full curse? Read Galatians 3:13.
18. Who set the terms for the covenant? Who guaranteed it?
19. What is the certainty of the promise based in?
20. How should we take God’s Word based on what we learned?
21. Are you putting your trust in your performance or who God is?

Point to ponder: God assured His covenant would not fail. We can trust if Jesus has said, “it is finished” then truly it is. All that has been spoken is true. **Believe** and live in this truth.