



Genesis Chapter 15 Abrams Destiny:

We are about ready to move into the 15th chapter of the book of Genesis... but before we do, I just want to take a couple of minutes to revisit this very mysterious character that we have seen in the 14th chapter of the book of Genesis called Melchizedek. Today's modern-day Roman Gentile church will often times try to get us to believe that Melchizedek was Jesus. Now if you were with us last week, you already understand why it is that Melchizedek could not have been Yeshua. But I don't want to leave you thinking that there is no other alternative as to who Melchizedek might have been.

I want us to remember what we saw in Genesis chapter 14, and the differences between the King of Sodom... and Melchizedek who is said to be the King of Salem (which would later be known as Jerusalem). We have to remember that the King of Sodom was King over what may have been the most wicked city in all of Canaan. The King of Sodom was a type of Satan or antichrist, just as Melchizedek was a type in shadow of Yeshua. And I want us to remember what happened when Yeshua encountered Satan at the top of the mountain. Satan was willing to give Yeshua all the riches of the world, and all the power of the world if Yeshua would just bow down to him. And I want us to also remember that neither Yeshua, nor Abram ever told the devil or the King of Sodom that *"these things are not yours to give."*

You see the riches of the world do belong to the devil. And this is how he entices us into his deception. The devil doesn't care about silver or gold or money or material things. He just uses these things against us because he knows that mankind loves wealth and riches. What the Devils really after is our souls. He was willing to give Yeshua all the power and the glory of the empires of the world... if he would just bow down to him. And the King of Sodom was doing the exact same thing to Abram. But the King of Sodom say to Abram? The King of Sodom said and I quote in Genesis chapter 14 verse 21 *"give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself."* But in the very next verse in Genesis chapter 14, verse 22, Abram said to the King of Sodom *"I have lifted my hand to Yahovah God most high, possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you say, "I have made Abram rich"'"*

And so, we see once again the reality of duality. The patterns that continue to repeat themselves. The shadows of things to come, just like King Solomon said... there is nothing new under the sun. The King of Sodom was willing to give up the riches... all he wanted... was the souls. And so, what we see in Genesis chapter 14 is a shadow picture of good versus evil. This does not mean that the King of Sodom actually was Satan himself, nor does it mean that Melchizedek

was Yeshua himself. These are just shadow pictures of things to come. Warnings (if you will) from our Father in heaven that give us hints of what is to come. The King of Sodom was willing to give up the riches in the booty to Abram and even allowed Abram to give the 10th of all that he had taken from the Kings of the North... and we must remember that 10 percent of what was originally stolen from the King of Sodom... Abram gave to Melchizedek who was the King of Salem. But the King of Salem didn't say a word, because he knew who Melchizedek was. We have to remember that the riches that Abram brought back actually belonged to the King of Sodom. But once again... the King of Sodom was not interested in the riches. What was he interested in? He was interested in the souls. "Take the riches... but leave the people with me".

You see if Abram would've bow down to the King of Sodom... the King of Sodom would've gotten the souls that he wanted, and he would've been able to say that he made Abram rich, and it was because of him that Abram was rich. But Abram rebuffs the King of Sodom understanding who it was that he was truly dealing with, and he tells him "no thanks." Abram doesn't want anything to do with this King of Sodom nor does he want to give this King of Sodom the upper hand in claiming that he made Abram rich so that later on this King of Sodom might come back and try to blackmail either Abram or his descendants.

Now as for who Melchizedek may have been... it has been long speculated by early Israelites sages, that Melchizedek was Shem the son of Noah. Shem the son of Noah lived for 602 years. We know that he was 100 years old at the time of the great flood. Abram was born in about 1948 BC and was 140 years old when Shem died. So, it makes perfect sense that Shem, the son of Noah was indeed the Melchizedek priest who was the King of Salem.

Now I want to interject the fact that we are not told this explicitly in the Scripture. But it could be said that we are told this through the Scripture by proper calculation and through studying to show ourselves approved. There is a great schism if you will... between the Jewish rabbis and today's newfound Gentile church, concerning exactly who Melchizedek was. But as we have already seen in our study last week into the book of Genesis chapter 14... there is no possible way that Melchizedek could have been their version of Jesus or our Messiah Yeshua. And the only other real explanation of who Melchizedek could have possibly been... points directly to Shem the son of Noah who was still alive and well in those days.

Now I don't want to get into a big study on this because we've already done a study on who we believe that Melchizedek most likely was, and you can find that study at our website at holyimpactministries.com. All you have to do is navigate to our "Bible study night" live page, and then scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "*miscellaneous studies*". From there you'll see a drop-down box and the second study in that drop-down box is a video study entitled "*Will the real Melchizedek please stand.*" If you're interested in knowing more about this mystical being called Melchizedek... we urge you to take a look at this particular study, because it is very profound and there are some biblical facts concerning Melchizedek that you should be aware of. And I think this teaching will be a blessing to you if you're interested in more detail concerning this topic. And once again this teaching is free... it doesn't cost anything, were not

selling it in a CD or a DVD, we haven't printed this information in a book to sell you... it is free for everyone to view and to listen to. The only thing that it'll cost you, is the time it takes to sit down and view this particular study.

And so, with that being said... I think we can now move into Genesis chapter 15. Now as we always do... I'd like us to turn to Genesis chapter 15 so that we can see not only what is written in Genesis chapter 15... but also what is not written in Genesis chapter 15, and as we always say... "It's just as important to know what is written in the Scripture, as it is to know... what is not written in the Scripture." So, let's turn to Genesis chapter 15:

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

Gen 15:5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:7 And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

Gen 15:8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

Gen 15:9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.

Gen 15:11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Gen 15:12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

Gen 15:13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

Gen 15:14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Gen 15:15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.

Gen 15:16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Gen 15:17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

Gen 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I

*give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,
Gen 15:19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,
Gen 15:20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,
Gen 15:21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”*

And so now that we have a good grasp of what is, as well as what is not in Genesis chapter 15... I want us to first notice the very first few verses in Genesis chapter 15 verses one through three:

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

I want us to notice in these first three verses, that we see both fear, and doubt, setting in the clouded mind, and heart of Abram. God senses that Abram is feeling some fear and some apprehension and that doubt is starting to fill Abrams heart. And we must remember that God always searches the hearts and the minds of men. And so, before Abram even has a chance to open his mouth to God... our Father in heaven is already ministering to him, and addressing what Abram is feeling and thinking.

Our Father in heaven tells Abram not to fear. Our Father in heaven tells Abram that he will be his shield and that Abram’s reward will be very great. But even though Yahovah speaks to Abram and tells them these things... Abram continues to doubt in verse two. Abram begins to question God concerning the promises that God made to Abram. In verse three Abram continues to question God because Abram still does not have a son of his own. And I just want us to idle here for a moment and think about what we’re seeing in these first three Scriptures.

How many times has God told us something... and we know that God told us something... but we begin to doubt because it doesn’t come to fruition as quickly as we expected? I can tell you personally... that there have been several times when I knew full well that what I was doing was right... but the result of what I was doing did not come as fast as I expected it to. And because the result of what I was doing did not come as fast as I expected to, and God did not answer my prayers as quickly as I wanted him to... I began to doubt. I began to question things. I began to ask myself “what if.” “What if”, this, or “what if” that. And so, it shouldn’t be too hard to put ourselves in the shoes of Abram and know almost exactly what he was feeling. What if the Kings of the North decide to come back down and strike me? What if the King of Sodom is now making ready to smite me? What if I am overrun by all these pagan Kings that surround me? What if I misunderstood what God told me? What if I sinned without knowing it and have not realized it? What if God has chosen another? What if I am not worthy? What if, what if, what if. And we become doubting Thomas’s without even realizing it.

And so, I want us to realize that these Scriptures help us to understand that Abram was a real flesh and bone man. This is not just some story or a fable. Abram existed just as you and I exist today. Abram was tormented, and persecuted, and tempted, and tested just like you and I are tormented and persecuted and tempted and tested today in our time. But I want us to realize that Abram turned back to God when he was in doubt. Abram did not try to figure things out on his own. What did Abram do with his fear, and his doubt? He put his fear and his doubt back into the hands of the one true God of Israel. And I want us to recognize what our Father in heaven did. I want us to turn back very quickly to Genesis chapter 15 versus five and six:

Gen 15:5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Our Father in heaven brought Abram outside and he said and I quote *"look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then he said to him "so shall your offspring be"*. And so, God once again makes his promise to Abram extremely clear by repeating himself once again to verify to Abram that he was indeed going to make his offspring as vast and as numerous as the stars in the sky. And what are we told in verse six? *"And Abram believed Yahovah, and it was counted to him as righteousness."*

Once again, I want us to understand all the things that Abraham did. Up to this point Abram had done everything that God commanded him to do. And now... Abram believed. Abram had found faith, and because Abram had faith in what God had told him... our Father in heaven counted it to him as righteousness. Once again, we see faith and works, works and faith. You cannot have one without the other my friends, it's written all throughout the Scripture. You cannot have works, without faith, nor can you have faith, without works. It's like having the keys without the car, or the car without the keys. Only when you have the keys that start and run the car together... do you really have a car that you can drive.

And now, even though Abram has faith and believes the promise that God made him... we see in verse eight that Abram wants to know how God is going to give him all of this land that belongs to all these different pagan nations. So now Abram believes, but he's still confused about how God's going to do it. So, what does our Father in heaven do? He explains it to Abram on Abram's terms.

Today in our Western thinking... we would never accept a piece of land from someone without signing the paperwork and shaking hands. If someone came to us and said *"I'm going to just give you this piece of land... Here... It's yours."* But they never signed it over to us, and there is no paperwork proving that it's ours, and we never shook hands on it... what would we think? We would very highly suspect... that this land was not truly ours. Wouldn't we? Think about that for just a moment. Without a signature... and without paperwork... without that handshake, there is no way that we're going to believe that this land belongs to us. And it was the same for

Abram.

We must understand that human beings back in Abram's time did not have paper and pens, they did not sign things with their signatures, nor was a simple handshake enough to close a deal back in Abram's time. We spoke a little bit earlier about some of the customs and some of the traditions that man had, when they made covenants with each other, or when they made agreements with each other, and God was well aware of these things. God was well aware of the customs of man, and how man understood things. And so, what did God do? We see in versus nine through 12 that God has Abram perform what was customary to man in order to make a deal and to close that deal with Abram according to the traditions of men. God wanted Abram to feel comfortable about the promise that he just made to him.

Let me ask you this question my friends. Does God have to cut animals in half and walk between the pieces and do all of these things when he makes a promise to someone? We must remember that what God says... becomes a part of nature. What God says, and what comes out of the mouth of God... becomes part of the law of the universe. What God says... God is bound to do. God does not need to prove that he is bound to his own promise by cutting animals in half and laying each half over against the other and doing all of these kinds of ritualistic things. So why does he do it? He does it to ease Abrams fear, and Abrams doubt. He does it to help Abram understand... that what he just promised Abram... he was indeed without a doubt... going to do.

Because God loved Abram he stooped to Abram's level so that Abram like a little child... would understand what his Father was telling him. And I want us to understand the ramifications of this. I want us to understand how much God loved Abram. God was allowing Abram to question him. God was allowing Abram to doubt him. God was allowing Abram to poke and prod him into proving that he was indeed going to give Abram this land and make his offspring more than the stars of heaven. And God played the game with Abram because he loved him. Like a child talks to his Father... our Father in heaven was taking Abram by the hand and pulling him up on his lap and reassuring him that he loved him enough to carry through with the promises that he made him.

And so, God tells Abram to bring him a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove and the young pigeon. And Abram brought all these things back and he cut them in half and he laid each half over against the other and God participated in this man-made tradition so that Abram would finally understand that God was not going to back out of his promise to Abram.

Now before we press on and move forward from here, I want us to also understand why it was that Abram was so concerned about not having a son. I daresay that we in our modern-day mindset, will probably never be able to entirely understand the importance of a man back in those days having a son to carry on the family line.

Today you hardly ever hear of anyone speaking of such a thing. Children today are tossed around between parents like material possessions. Women today actually use their children as weapons against their husbands, and at times... vice a versa. But back then, children were the lifeblood of the family. Back in Abram's time all humans believed that a man lived on through his heir. Not so much as reincarnation, but as a real substance that was invisible and unknowable. That stuff that makes each person a unique individual. The life force which is contained in the bloodline of a family was carried through human reproduction. In some mysterious and undefined way, the fundamental nature of the father lived on through his son. If a man was to die without an heir, then this meant an end to his family line, and therefore an end to his own human essence.

And by the same token, for a woman to be unable to give birth to a son... and unable to give her husband a heir... was a shameful thing for her. Her primary reason for existence as a human female... was to produce an heir for her husband. It's important that we understand that for the people of Abrams day... there was no concept of dying and going to heaven and living with God for eternity. A son was Abram's only hope of seeing all of God's promises realized, and he was well aware of this. And with this in mind I want us to think about the promise that God made to David about David ruling over his kingdom. But not David himself... the heir of David that God said that he would create from the very body of David, who would then become our very Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach. And so, with this in mind I want us to read second Samuel chapter 7 versus 12 through 16: This may be a little difficult to understand at first but stay with me.

2Sa 7:12 *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.*

2Sa 7:13 *He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

2Sa 7:14 *I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,*

2Sa 7:15 *but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.*

2Sa 7:16 *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."*

I want us to understand what God is telling David here in verses 12 through 15. God is telling David that he is going to raise up from his offspring after him, a man that God will call his own son. God is telling David that he is going to raise up a man from David's own body, and that God is going to call this offspring of David's... Gods own son. But notice what he says in verse 16. He says to David and I quote "*and your house and your kingdom (David) shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*"

And so, here we have a perfect example of how things were understood back in the days of Abram. It would be to Abram's son that Abram's offspring would become more than the stars of the heavens. Abram was fully aware that without a son... none of this could happen. And so, once again we really need to put ourselves in the mindsets of Abram and the people who lived in his time. And I might add... that things are not so far-fetched even in our time. We must understand that we are encapsulated in these mud bodies if you will. But the day is going to come when these mud bodies are going to melt away. In fact, these mud bodies that we walk around in today are already decaying and beginning to deteriorate and are getting ready to go back into the ground where they came from. When this happens the spirit... (which our Scripture says is in the blood) will then be released from the confines of these mud bodies. And at that time, we will be gathered to our people, and will then become a nation of priests that will rule and reign with our Messiah.

But we must remember that Abraham was not aware of any of these things at this point in time. As far as Abram was concerned... the only way that he could continue to live on was through a son. And God had not yet given him that son. And so, I want us to understand how important having a son was to Abram and Sarah his wife. And the importance of this is going to play out and become even more dominant as we move forward through the book of Genesis. And so, I want us to think about these things and contemplate these things as we were reading through the Scriptures found in the book of Genesis.

Now, getting back to this ritual that our Father in heaven had participated in in order to help Abram to understand that his promises were indeed irrevocable. I want us to understand when we see these animals being cut in half and laid in different sections... that this was not a ceremony that had to do with animal sacrifice. The animals were not sacrificed in the strict sense of the word "*sacrifice*". There was no altar, there was no burning up of the animals, this particular ritual had to do with covenant making. It had to do with making a contract between two beings. It was much like us in our day signing a contract and shaking hands. And so, I don't want us to get confused about what was going on here in Genesis chapter 15. This was just a custom that Abram was used to. And God accommodated Abram by doing what Abram was used to doing when a contract or a deal was being sealed between two people. This gave Abram closure, and helped him to understand that the promises of God were indeed irrevocable.

Another thing that I want us to understand about this promise that God made to Abraham is that it is not a two-way promise. This is a one-way promise. This is a promise from God, to Abraham. It's not predicated on the actions of Abram, and it's not predicated on what Abram does or does not do. No matter what... God is going to perform his promise that he made to Abram. And so, I want us to know and I want us to understand that this promise that God made to Abraham about giving him this land, and making his descendants more than the number of the stars... is indeed irrevocable. And this is what God was trying to get through to Abram.

With that in mind I want us to take another closer look at Genesis chapter 15 versus 11 and 12:

Gen 15:11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
Gen 15:12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

We see in verses 11 and 12 that these birds of prey were coming down trying to steal the animals that Abram had laid out to seal the covenant between God and himself. I want us to understand the significance of what we're seeing here... and why these two verses are included in our Scripture. Why would these two verses about birds of prey coming down to steal the carcasses be in our Scripture? What does this have to do with anything? I would submit to you my friends that it has everything to do with everything.

Whenever God promises us good things... the devil will do everything in his power to steal it away. Our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son have promised us salvation. But our adversary is doing everything in his power to swoop down like a bird of prey and steal that salvation away. He's trying to take that promise away from us. You see salvation is not a one ended promise. The promise of salvation that was made by our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son works two ways (*contrary to the Gentile church and her man-made theory concerning salvation*).

You see there are different types of covenants, and different types of promises. Some promises need only concern one party or the other. But the promise of salvation concerns both parties. It concerns both God and man. The covenant of salvation is not a one-way street. Man is not once saved always saved. Do as thou wilt is not the whole of the law. And man is forbidden to return like a dog to his vomit or a pig to its mire if he wishes to partake in the free gift of salvation that has been put forth through the grace of God and his only begotten Son.

There is a difference between these two types of covenant, and today's modern-day Christian needs to very quickly wake up and smell the coffee and realize the differences between these two types of covenants. And if you do not understand these two types of covenants, then I suggest you very quickly open your Bible to Deuteronomy chapter 30 versus 11 through 20 and understand that God has set before us life and good, death and evil. If... and that two-letter word "if" is a much bigger word that we may think.... "if".... we obey the commandments of our Father in heaven that he commands us by loving him and walking in his ways and keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules then we shall live. But if our hearts turned away... and we will not hear, and we're drawn away to worship the things of this world... then we shall surely perish. And you won't only find this teaching in Deuteronomy chapter 30. You'll find this teaching all throughout the biblical narrative.

But I want us to understand that this particular covenant that God makes with Abram does not require Abram to do anything. This is a promise that comes straight from God and only relies on God keeping his end of the promise... which he has told Abram over and over again, that he will do. And I would submit to you my friends that we are seeing the realization of this very promise coming to fruition today in our time, as more and more people are being grafted into

the offspring of Abraham each and every day... Praise Yahovah and the work of his only begotten Son Yeshua Hamashiach who has made himself the propitiation of our sinful nature.

Those birds that Abram was driving away from the carcasses of those animals were a representation of the devil himself who will continuously try to keep us away from the free gift of salvation that our Father in heaven has seen fit to give us through his grace and his mercy.

And so once again my friends I would submit to you that this is exactly why these two verses have been included in the Scripture. We must remember that it is written and I quote "*resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" Once he understands that he no longer has a foothold, and there is no doubt in his mind that you're not going to give up... He will... flee you. He'll only stay as long as he thinks that he still has a chance to get what he wants.

As we move forward I want us to notice in verse 12 that a deep sleep fell upon Abram. Now when a deep sleep suddenly falls upon someone, this is almost always the first sign that they're going to be mentally transported somewhere... where either God himself, or his Angels, can show them something.

We often see different characters of the Bible falling into a deep sleep and then being transported somewhere to see something or to witness something that has to do with prophecy. We see all kinds of examples of this found in Isaiah chapter 29 verse 10 in the book of Isaiah. We see it concerning Jacob's ladder at Bethel. We see it when Peter fell asleep and then had the dream of the sheet with all kinds of animals in it. And so, we see this happening time after time after time. The spirit of God will often times come upon someone and cause them to fall into a trance and then take them beyond the veil, to see and to hear, and to know what God wants them to see, hear, and know.

In Genesis chapter 15 verse 13 we see what it is that God wants Abram to know. God speaks to Abram and he says and I quote "*know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for 400 years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.*"

It's also important to notice in chapter 12 that a dreadful and dark presence fell upon Abram before God told him this prophetic information. And so, before Abram even heard the words of God... he knew that this was not going to be pleasant news. Of course, we know that this prophecy has already come true. This is when the descendants of Abram were in Egypt, and all of this has to do with the exodus when our Father in heaven rescued the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh and they left with many riches from the land of Egypt, which was indeed a land that was not their own.

And so, God allows Abram to know and understand what's about to happen in the future concerning his offspring. And even though this is not entirely good news... it's not entirely bad news either. God tells Abram that his clan will indeed return after the fourth generation of Abram. And so, it was important for God to let Abram know this before he was gathered to his fathers in peace and buried in a good old age.

And we'll talk more about what God wanted Abram to know before he died... next week on Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time as we gather back together to walk through our Father's Torah.