

**Weekly Word March 16, 2025**

**Marion Victory**

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

**Psalm 27**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1**

**Luke 9:28-36**

“To your descendants I give this land ...

The Word of the LORD had come to Abram in a vision. “Do not be afraid Abram, I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” *Abram responds*, “Lord GOD what will you give me (I suspect referring to the *reward*), seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?” (*Eliezer was the great grandson of Ham and a servant to Abram*).

Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed, one born in my house is my heir!” (That exclamation mark tells me there’s strong emotion in this statement. Abram is *feeling* something and it’s showing in his tone). Imagine, Abram having the gaul to say to GOD ... **Look!** GOD responds, not with anger or chastisement but, with love.

**“This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”** 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.” And he (Abram) believed in the LORD, and He (GOD) accounted it to him for righteousness. (Romans 4:3 Paul reminds the people of his day this truth).

Then GOD reminds Abram why He brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans. It was to give him the land to inherit it. “Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?” Asks Abram. And GOD gives him instructions.

Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror *and great darkness* (the sun hasn’t gone down yet) fell upon him. The NIV calls it a **dreadful darkness**. What is this great, dreadful, darkness? Is it from GOD?

Remember Abram has just finished killing and dividing animals as per GOD’S instruction, he has been driving birds of prey away (for however long). He’s had this rush of adrenaline flowing through him and he’s probably physically exhausted.

The sun is going down and natural darkness would soon surround him. There’s no house lights or streetlights so it’s going to get pretty dark. Stars will begin to twinkle. Is this a spiritual battle? Sometimes, when we draw close or hear from GOD, or get clear instruction, a battle takes place within our spirit. Is this what Abram is experiencing? (Food for thought).

Regardless of the cause. The deep sleep comes.

GOD reveals to him what will happen to his descendants and it's not all nice. They will be enslaved, be strangers, and will be full of affliction. In the end however, they *will* possess the land.

In the darkness, a burning oven and torch pass through the pieces. A symbol of GOD'S covenant and His presence. GOD Himself walks between the animals signifying the seriousness of His covenant with Abraham. A covenant that would not be broken EVER!

David understood that covenant GOD had made. He was raised in it. He echoes it through this Psalm. The LORD is my light and my salvation, The LORD is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When the enemy comes against me, or an army encamps around me, if war arises against me, in this I will be confident. Referring to the LORD.

He was David's confidence. David continues, in the time of trouble, GOD will hide me in the secret place of His tabernacle. He shall set me upon a rock.

This entire Psalm is a song of GOD'S protection, ever presence, and promises.

The key verse for me is the final verse of this chapter: ***Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!***

To wait doesn't mean to stop and do nothing. Its to continue on.

Listen for direction with expectation while you're waiting.

Paul echoes these words again when he tells us to "***stand fast.***"

On the Mount, Moses and Elijah appear in glory and are conversing with Jesus about His coming death. It seems Peter, James and John are heavy with sleep at first. When they 'wake up' they see a (transfigured), Jesus with two men. Peter wants to keep this; he wants everything to stay as it is on that mountain. Why wouldn't he? He doesn't want Jesus to die. He loves Him. This would be good. Wouldn't it?

Like Abram, they are overshadowed by GOD. He appears in a cloud for them, (not fire as with Abram). And He speaks: "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" That's His command.

We have two visitations of GOD in the readings for today. One by fire and one by cloud. Both represent GOD'S glory and His desire to be close. A pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. Who can stand in His presence unless there is a shield to protect?

We serve a GOD of covenant (He wants to come together and bind Himself to us, to make an agreement that is eternal). That covenant was made through Jesus. Paul reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body. So, while we wait, we fulfill our part of the covenant; "Go and make Disciples."

