

The **Big** Story Of The Bible

Part 15: God's Covenant With Abram: A Study In Doubt

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, and your very great reward." Genesis 12:4 (NLT)

Some Observations On Doubt:

1. ----- Doubts.

* But Abram replied, "O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son... You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir." Genesis 15:2-3 (NLT)

* One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." John 20:24-25 (NLT)

2. Sincere Doubters Are Always -----.

* Then the Lord said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own..." Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" Genesis 15:4-5 (NLT)

* The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side." John 20:26-27

* Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Matthew 28:16-17 (NLT)

3. Sincere Doubters Are Always -----.

*** And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. Then the Lord told him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession." Genesis 15:6-7 (NLT)**

*** Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:27-29 (NLT)**

*** But Abram replied, "O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?" Gen. 15:8 (NLT)**

4. God ----- The Doubts.

*** The Lord told him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side. Genesis 15:9-10 (NLT)**

*** As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him. Then the Lord said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves... After four generations your descendants will return here to this land. Genesis 15:12-16 (NLT)**

*** After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. Genesis 15:15 (NLT)**

*** So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day. Genesis 15:16 (NLT)**

*** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. Isaiah 53:7-8 (NLT)**

*** At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:45-45 (NLT)**

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