



## THE DARK SIDE OF FAITH

Genesis 15:1-21 // Dr. Ron Jones

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

“One who truly fears God, and is obedient to him, may be in a condition of darkness, and have no light; and he may walk many days and years in that condition.” THOMAS GOODWIN, PURITAN PREACHER

### “Fear Not”

*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.”* GENESIS 15:1 ESV

1. Abraham feared for his \_\_\_\_\_ (“shield”)
2. Abraham feared for his \_\_\_\_\_ (“reward”)

### Counting the Stars

*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?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”<sup>4</sup> 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.”<sup>5</sup> 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.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. GENESIS 15:2-6

Sometimes the test of faith is spelled \_\_\_\_\_.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.<sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” JOB 38:4-7; PSALM 19:1

### **Cutting a Covenant**

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,”<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. GENESIS 15:9-11FF ESV

### **Take It Home**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the antidote to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is always \_\_\_\_\_ before the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Promises \_\_\_\_\_, promises \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The same God who \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: protection, provision, T-I-M-E, fear, darkest, dawn, made, kept, called you out, see you through

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