

A Covenantal Relationship

Description

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Genesis 15:12-21

Four hundred years of slavery is hard to endure. Abram's descendants would learn this through a long narrative of suffering and oppression.

God solidifies His covenantal relationship with Abram and His people through a ceremonial ritual that symbolizes His unilateral and unconditional love. This was a covenant that would extend later to anyone who would "believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (Romans 4:24).

It is significant that God, represented by the firepot, passes through the pieces alone, when in fact, both parties traditionally were to pass through in this ancient ritual of formalizing covenant. God, alone, would ensure that the covenant would remain intact. Human error would not impact God's commitment. Our unworthiness would not deter God's unfathomable love for us.

This would undoubtedly be a great comfort to those enslaved and mistreated for many generations. God would not abandon them. God would remain faithful to His oath.

We must examine our own hearts to discern whether we are mistreating others.

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