

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Genesis 15:7-21

Sunday, October 6, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What did Abram do to show that he believed God?

Abram moved when and where God told him to move, to a land that God had promised to give to him and to his descendants. Abram did what God said. Abram trusted in and obeyed God.

2. Why do you think God made a covenant or contract with Abram the way He did?

God used a method of making a contract or covenant similar to what Abram knew from his cultural experience, but far more elaborate and terrifying; therefore, Abram knew that God had made a binding contract with him. God gave the covenant in a way that Abram would never forget or ask for again in order for Abram to know that God would do what He said. God made the contract or covenant in a way that Abram could tell his descendants about, so they too could believe in God and the covenant promise to them.

3. Why do you think God included in His covenant the revelation to Abram that his descendants would be enslaved four hundred years and then freed to take possession of the Promised Land?

God planned for the fulfillment to take place over many years according to His perfect timing to inspire true faith in Him for many generations. God wanted Abram's descendants and others to know with certainty that the covenant had been made with Abram and his descendants when God fulfilled His part of the contract perfectly. When people learn about these facts today, they have good and sufficient reasons to believe in the God of the Bible and believe the Bible as the word of God.

4. What reason did God give Abram for His giving the land of the Amorites to his descendants when He planned to give it to them?

The Amorites would be completely evil and unrepentant by the time the Israelites would enter the land (Note: Therefore, the Israelites should have no relationships with them). God was exceedingly patient with the Amorites by waiting four hundred years, not wanting any Amorites to perish before they had sufficient time and opportunity to repent and turn back to God (see 2 Peter 3:9).

5. Why do you think God promised through Abram that his descendants would leave their land of slavery with great possessions?

So Abram and his descendants would know that God was just and they would be paid for their time of work while being forced to labor as slaves. The children and grandchildren of those enslaved would profit from the work of their parents and grandparents. So when they left Egypt with great possessions they would have further evidence that God is real and can be trusted to keep His promises and always do what is right no matter what the situation.

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