

Your Reward for Your Faithfulness
International Bible Lesson
Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18
Sunday, December 11, 2011
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward” (Genesis 15:1—KJV).

“After this, Abram had a vision and heard the LORD say to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I will shield you from danger and give you a great reward’” (Genesis 15:1—GNB).

“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great’” (Genesis 15:1—NRSV).

God communicates with His people in ways best suited to meet their needs and situation. Abram probably knew many of the facts that we know from the first eleven chapters of Genesis, because his ancestors handed these truths down to their descendants. In addition to knowing about God from their testimony, because of his previous experiences with God, Abram recognized God when He spoke to him in visions. Compared to what we can learn about God from the Bible, Abram’s knowledge could have been very small. For example, Abram did not have the Psalms; therefore, to comfort and encourage Abram, God needed to speak to him in visions. Abram’s visions taught him, and eventually millions of people, more about God and the various ways He helps people.

When the LORD spoke to Abram, He told him not to be afraid. Before this vision, Abram feared Pharaoh and he acted unwisely (see Genesis 12:10-20). Abram had to learn by experience to keep trusting in God's promise, "I am your shield," for when he later feared Abimelech and chose unwisely, God acted as his shield and saved Abimelech from sinning against Abram and his family (see Genesis 20:1-18).

From their study of the Bible, believers know that the LORD himself acts as their shield, the same as God acted as the shield for Abraham and Sarah. God actually surrounds His followers with His almighty, loving presence. Therefore, all who share the faith of Abraham know that their everlasting relationship with God is the greatest reward they can receive for their faithfulness to God.

— © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. — E-mail:
lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org

You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.

More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at
InternationalBibleLessons.org.

Read the verse by verse commentary on the Bible Lesson at: BibleLessonForum.com

International Bible Lessons Archives from 2007-2011
InternationalBibleLessons.com.

See the recommended study and worship resources at
SmallChurchResources.com.

4. What did God say would happen to some of Abram's descendants? How might their knowing this have helped them?

5. What did God say would happen to Abram?

— © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.