

Abram's Sacrifice



By Randall Ricker May 2, 2020
Sabbath Church of God

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Promises to Abram

Genesis 15:1, 5-8

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ...5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. 7 Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." 8 And he said, "LORD God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To **a land** that I will show you. 2 I will make you **a great nation**; **I will bless you** And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The covenant sacrifice

Genesis 15:18

18 On the same day the LORD made a **covenant** [1285 a compact (**because made by passing between pieces of flesh**), from 1262 (in the sense of cutting) to select, to feed, to render clear] with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Genesis 15:9-11

9 So He said to 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." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and **cut them in two**, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Additional sources:

John R. Walton, *The NIV Application Commentary* 2001

www.AllanStranglin.com

Adam Clarke's Commentary

Other covenant sacrifices

Jeremiah 34:18-20

18 And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it-- 19 the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf-- 20 I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. Their dead bodies shall be for meat for the birds of the heaven and the beasts of the earth.

Matthew 24:50-51

The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 12:46

the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Other covenant sacrifices

Daniel 2:5

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, **you shall be cut in pieces**, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.

Daniel 3:29

Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego **shall be cut in pieces**, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

Blood for atonement

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is **the blood that makes atonement** for the soul.'

Hebrews 9:19-22

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

Blood for atonement

Genesis 15:12-17

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." 17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a **smoking** oven and a **burning torch** that passed between those pieces.

God appeared as smoke

Isaiah 6:1, 4

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple... 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and **the house was filled with smoke.**

2 Chronicles 5:13-14

13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, **the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,** 14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

Exodus 19:18

Now Mount Sinai was completely in **smoke**, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

God appeared as fire

Exodus 24:15-17

15 Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. 16 Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 The sight of **the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire** on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of **fire**, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

God appeared as fire

Hebrews 12:28-29

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For **our God is a consuming fire.**

Isaiah 33:14-15

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "**Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?** Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"

15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil:

God would pay for broken covenant

Hebrews 6:13-18

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself**, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Colossians 1:19-20

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him **to reconcile** all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made **peace through the blood** of His cross.