



Story 3:
God's Promise to Abram
Genesis 15



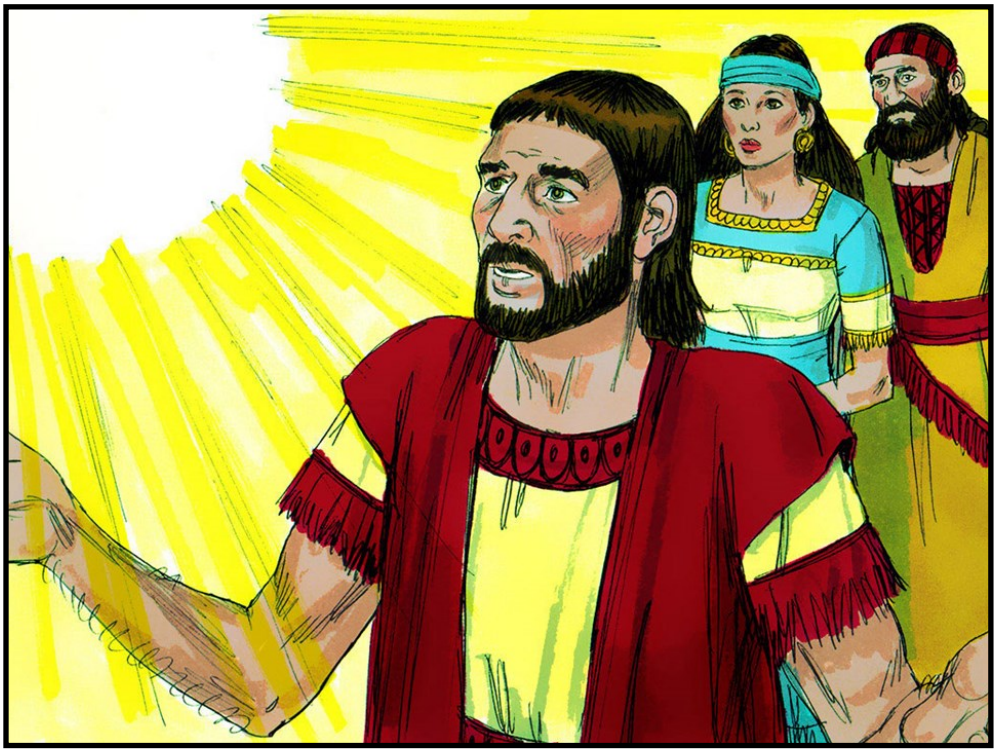
Story 3:

God's Promise to Abram

Genesis 15



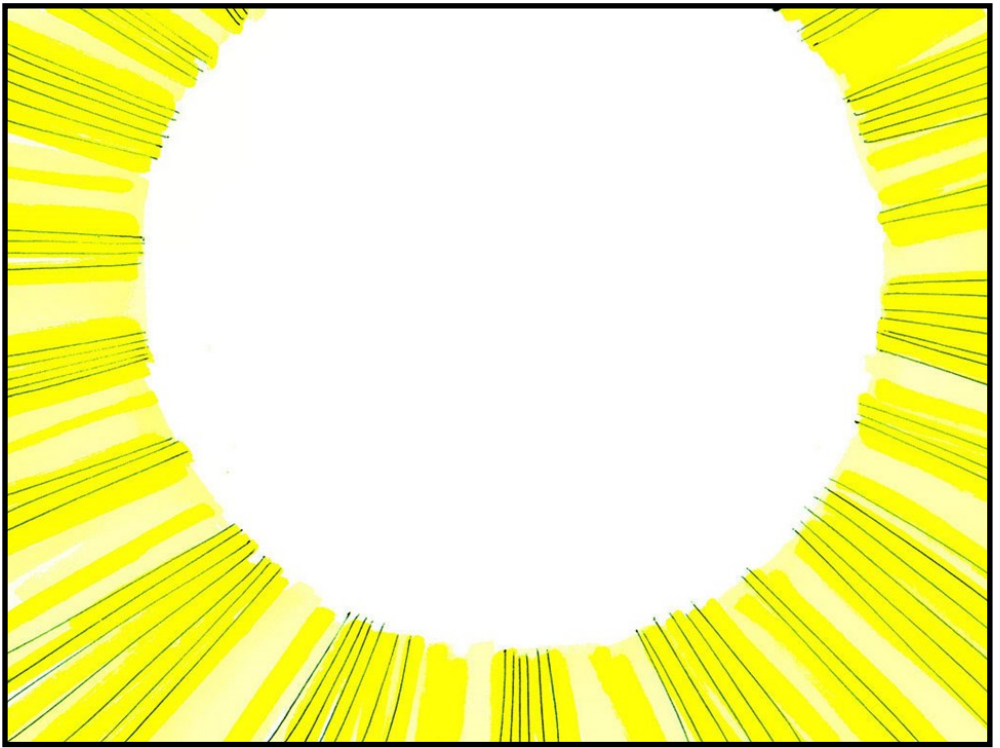
God spoke to Abram in a vision. He said, “Do not be afraid Abram. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward.”



But Abram said back to God, “My Lord and King, I still don’t have any children. The closest person to me is my servant, Eliezer, who is from Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own. Because you have not given me any children, my servant will get everything.”



God said to Abram, “When you die, all that you have will *not* be given to Eliezer.” God took Abram outside to look at the night sky. “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That’s how many children will be born into your family.”

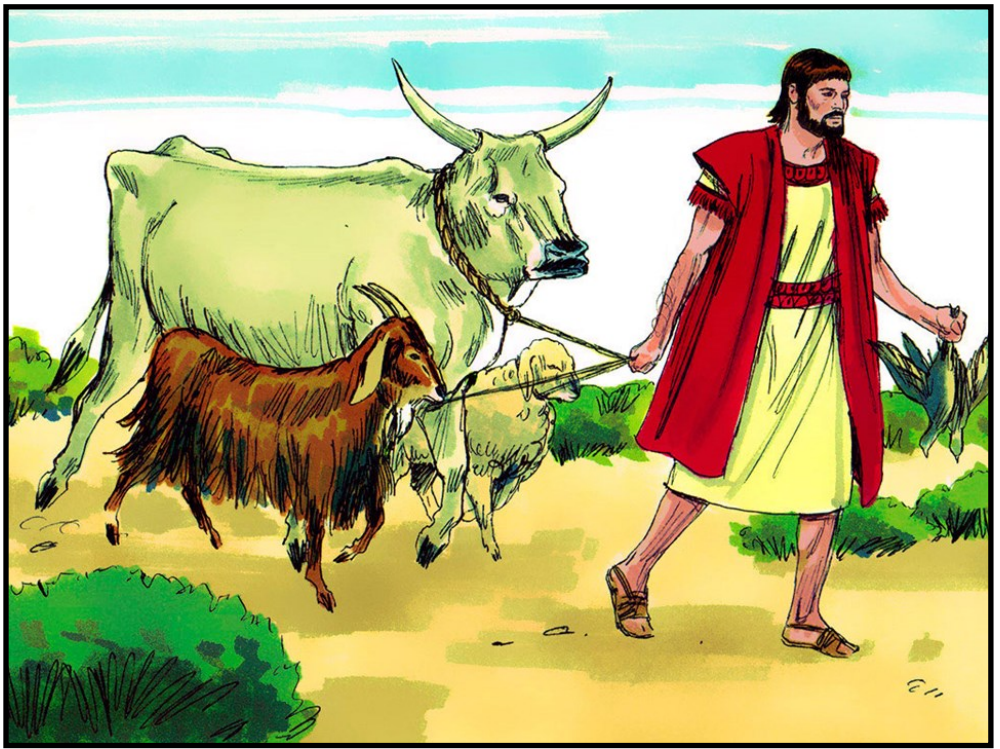


Even though Abram didn't know how God would do it, he believed what God told him. And the LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with God.



But Abram said, “My Lord and King, how can I know that I will have this land as my own?”

So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a young cow, a goat, and a ram. Each must be three years old. Bring a dove and a young pigeon too.”



Abram brought all of the animals to the LORD. Abram cut them into two pieces and placed the pieces side by side with a path in the middle, but he did not cut the birds in half.



While this practice may seem weird, it was actually an ancient way of making a covenant with someone. After he cut the animals in half, large birds came down to eat the dead bodies of the animals, but Abram chased them away.



As the sun set, Abram fell into a deep sleep. A thick and scary darkness came over him. God said to him, “For 400 years your descendants who come after you will be strangers in another country. They will become slaves in that country and will be treated very badly.”



God also explained that He would punish the nation that would make them slaves and that He would eventually free them. God told Abram that when his people finally left that place, they would leave with many possessions. They would go to live in the land that God promised them—the land of Canaan.



When the sun had set, a smoking firepot and a blazing torch appeared and passed between the animal halves lying on the ground. This was God's way of making a promise to Abram. God would give Abram's family the land where he was now living.



However, Abram and his wife Sarai kept getting older and older. They were still not able to have any children. When the son that God had promised did not come, Sarai became very sad since she had become an old woman. It would take a miracle for her to have a child.

M

kids

wants to thank American illustrator Jim Pagett and Sweet Publishing for their free distribution of the pictures used in this book.

