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7/10/16

## **“God’s Scary, Solitary Work”**

### **Abraham (Part 7)**

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)*

*“So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say,  
‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”  
(Luke 17:10 NKJV)*

### **Guarantee of God**

**Genesis 15:7** – “And [God] said to [Abraham], ‘I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.’”

### **Natural Need to Know/Control**

**Genesis 15:8** – “*But* he said, ‘O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’”

### **Abraham’s Hard Work**

**Genesis 15:9-12** – (9) “[God] said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ (10) And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. (11) And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (12) As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.”

### **If You really must Know**

**Genesis 15:13-16** – (13) “Then the LORD said to Abram, ‘Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. (14) But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (15) As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. (16) And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’”

### **While Abraham Slept**

**Genesis 15:17-21** – (17) “When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. (18) On that day

the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, (19) the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, (20) the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, (21) the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.’”

### **Lessons:**

#### **Depend on God, not people**

“For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.” (Isaiah 63:16)

#### **Come to Jesus for Rest**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

### **Questions to Ponder:**

- (1) How much do I try to control things? (Jer. 10:23; Is. 2:22; Heb. 5:7)
- (2) Like Abraham, have I been brought to a point of exhaustion to rely more fully on God? (2 Cor. 1:8-9)
- (3) How much do we really know; how much can we actually do; can we take credit for anything? (Job 38:4-41; Dan. 4:30-31; Jer. 9:23-24)