



# THE REWARD OF THE JUST

Volume 11 Issue 1

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 15

*"He Believed in the Lord; and He Counted it to Him for Righteousness"*



## STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 **REWARD** (H7939) "Sakar" - payment (of contract); concr. salary, fare, maintenance; by imp. Compensation, benefit; hire, price, wages, worth
- 2 **SHIELD** (H4043) "Meginnah" - protector (fig).  
**SHIELD** (G2375) "Thureos" - a large shield (Eph. 6:16)
- 3 **FURNACE** (H8574) "Tannur" - a firepot; oven  
**FURNACE** (G2575) "Kaminoes" - a furnace
- 4 **SLEEP** (H8639) "Tardemah" - a lethargy or trance
- 5 **HORROR** (H367) "Emah" - fear, fright, dread, terrible terror
- 6 **DARKNESS** (H2825) "Chashekah" - darkness, fig. misery
- 7 **LAMP** (H3940) "Lappid" - to shine



## TEXT OF THE WEEK

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."*

-Heb. 11: 1,6



## THE PROMISE

1. Following the events of chapter 14, what did the Lord tell Abram? Genesis 15:1
  - A. What is the meaning of "I am thy shield" (H4043)?
    - 1) Psalm 3:3
    - 2) Psalm 33:20
    - 3) Psalm 119:114
    - 4) Psalm 144:2
  - B. Use Proverbs 11 and Isaiah 40:10-11; 62:11-12 to help interpret the meaning of "thy exceeding great reward" (H7939). J. P. Green's Greek Interlinear translates, "...your reward will increase greatly." Both suggest completeness. What is unique about this reward? How could anyone think there could be more than salvation as a reward? How does this contradict the church teaching that man's good deeds will be rewarded in heaven?
2. Abram asked the Lord (15:2), "What wilt thou give me seeing I go childless...?" Even though he didn't understand how God was going to fulfill it, Abram believed the promise God gave him (15:6). How is it possible for a child of God to believe and not fully understand? Heb. 11:1-3, 6; Rom. 8:24-25
  - A. Reflect on testing endured by any child of God. Does he ever understand the timing of God's plan? Why are God's ways are hard to understand? Isaiah 55:8-9
  - B. If God would have given him a child at this time, Abram still would be considered advanced in age (approximately early eighties) to begin parenting. Why wouldn't God fulfill His promise at this time? Hadn't Abram waited long enough? James 1:3; Ro. 5:1-5
  - C. What kind of faith can endure this testing? Hab. 2:4; Ro. 1:16-17; Heb. 10:35-38

## THE DEMONSTRATION

3. Abram responded to God with a second question, "Whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" (15:8) With what instructions did God respond? Genesis 15:9-10
4. The series of events that take place in Genesis 15:12-17 are of deep meaning and can be difficult to understand if taken primarily from a physical or historical perspective. If we study the following phrases and words from a spiritual perspective, the meaning becomes much more clear and powerful.
  - A. Vs. 12: "When the sun was going down, a deep sleep (Job 4:13-17) fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror (Ex. 15:16) of great darkness (Ps. 82:5; 139:12; Is. 8:22) fell upon him."
  - B. Vs. 17: "...when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace (Is. 31:9; Rev. 9:2), and a burning lamp (Is. 62:1) that passed (Jer. 34:18-19) between those pieces."

*DISCUSS: How did the Old Testament covenant change in the New Testament? Would you say that the "covenant of works" is so detailed and the "covenant of grace" is so simple?*