

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

1 After these things (the things whereof thou shouldst already be aware) the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: and loose not thy bowels in trembling. I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

2 And Abram, seeing that herein lay a great opportunity, said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, for I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus of whom thou knowest my opinion?

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed nor fruit of my loins: and, lo, one born in my house, yea even a slave, is mine heir, for I did romp with his mother, merrily.

4 And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And Abram did raise an eyebrow unto this saying but kept his peace and girded his loins.

5 And the Lord brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them. And Abram looked and behold it was a cloudless night, and the firmament shone with countless lights. The Lord said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And Abram was comforted;

6 And he believed in the Lord; and the Lord counted it to him for righteousness.

7 And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, from the draughty house with no matting upon the floor and only a small outhouse, to give thee this land to inherit it.

8 And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it, for I have a desire for a sun room and an indoor bathing place?

9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And Abram saith, Wherefore shall I find these things, Lord? And the Lord said, Get thee to a market in the morning.

10 And Abram did as the Lord directed, and he took unto him all these, and with a sharp cleaver he divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not, for they were small and not worth the effort.

11 And when the fowls and the buzzards and eagles and rooks and crows came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away with a large fan.

12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him for his candle had gone out, and there were many strange noises and rustling and squeakings.

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, (as has just been written) behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. And the air was filled with the scent of roast fowl.

18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates. And Abram believed the word of the Lord knowing not the troubles it would cause to future generations.