

The covenant of the halves (Genesis 15:7-21)

7. וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָם יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאוּר כַּשְׂדִּים לְתֵת לְךָ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:

7. And He said unto him: 'I am YHVH that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.'

8. וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה בְּמָה אֶדְעֶה כִּי אִירְשֶׁנָּה:

8. And he said: 'O Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?'

9. וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי קַחְהָ לִּי עֶגְלָה מְשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת וְעֵז מְשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת וְאַיִל מְשֻׁלֶּשׁ וְתוֹר וְגוֹזֵל:

9. And He said unto him: 'Take Me a heifer of three years old, and a she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'

10. וַיִּקַּח-לוֹ אֶת-כָּל-אֵלֶּה וַיְבַתֵּר אֹתָם בְּתוֹךְ וַיִּתֵּן אִישׁ-בְּתָרוֹ לְקַרְאֵת רֵעֵהוּ וְאֶת-הַצֶּפֶר לֹא בָתֵּר:

10. And he took him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each half over against the other; but the birds divided he not.

11. וַיֵּרֶד הָעֵיט עַל-הַפְּגָרִים וַיֵּשֶׁב אֹתָם אַבְרָם:

11. And the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.

12. וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לָבוֹא וְתַרְדֵּמָה נִפְלְאָה עַל-אַבְרָם וְהִנֵּה אֵימָה חֲשֵׁכָה גְדֹלָה נִפְלְתָ עָלָיו:

12. And it came to pass, that, when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, a dread, even a great darkness, fell upon him.

13. וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע תְּדַע כִּי-גֵר אֶהְיֶה זְרַעְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם וְעַבְדוּם וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:

13. And He said unto Abram: 'Know of a surety that your seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

14. וְגַם אֶת-הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָן אֲנִכִּי וְאַחֲרָי-כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְרַב־שׁוֹב גָּדוֹל:

14. and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

15. וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל-אֲבֹתֶיךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם תִּקְבָּר בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה:

15. But thou shalt go to your fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16. וְדוֹר רְבִיעִי יָשׁוּבוּ הֵנָּה כִּי לֹא-שָׁלֵם עֲוֹן הָאֱמֹרִי עַד-הֵנָּה:

16. And in the fourth generation they shall come back hither; for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full.'

17. וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ בָּאָה וְעֲלָטָה הָיָה וְהַיָּהוָה תָּנֹור עֵשֶׂן וְלַפִּיד אֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָבַר בֵּין הַגְּזָרִים הָאֵלֶּה:
17. And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and there was thick darkness, behold a smoking furnace, and a flaming torch that passed between these pieces.
18. בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת-אַבְרָם בְּרִית לֵאמֹר לְזֶרְעֶךָ נָתַתִּי אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְהַר מִצְרַיִם עַד-הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר-פְּרָת:
18. In that day YHVH made a covenant with Abram, saying: 'Unto your seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates;
19. אֶת-הַקֵּינִי וְאֶת-הַקֵּנִזִּי וְאֶת הַקַּדְמוֹנִי:
19. the Kenite, and the Kenizzite, and the Kadmonite,
20. וְאֶת-הַחִתִּי וְאֶת-הַפְּרִזִּי וְאֶת-הַרְפָּאִים:
20. and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Rephaim,
21. וְאֶת-הָאֲמֹרִי וְאֶת-הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי וְאֶת-הַיְבוּסִי: (ס)
21. and the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Girgashite, and the Jebusite.'