

March 17, 2019: Second Sunday in Lent



 What do I need to know in order to understand what this part of the Bible is about?

// Why do you think this Old Testament lesson is paired with the Gospel lesson, Luke 13:31-35 (Jesus' Lament for Jerusalem)?

 How does the message of today's text influence my living?

NEXT WEEK'S READING:

March 24, 2019
Invitation to the Thirsty / Repent or Perish
Isaiah 55:1-9 / cf. Luke 13:1-9

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The Lord's Covenant With Abram

¹⁵ After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,^A
your very great reward.^B"

² But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit^C my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring^D be."

⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

⁷ He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

⁸ But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

⁹ So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi^A of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—