

## GALATIANS Chapt 2 Covenants; History and making- attach - 1

What's amazing about The Old Covenant with Abraham is that **God Himself takes the threatened curses on, Himself, as He walks through those animals that are cut in two**, Gen 15:17-18 that He WILL certainly bring this promise to pass!

### For nerds only:

Any covenant made, it was said to have been *cut*. The cutting of the covenant referred to the required sacrifice of animals. Animals, literally, cut in two. Jacob Weingreen, *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1959), 304. and Bruce William Jones, "Cutting Deals and Striking Bargains," *English Today* 12, no. 2 (1996): 35-40. The person who had to keep the promises walked through those animals as a statement of, "If I don't keep my end of the bargain, may be done to me what has been done to these animals." Friedman, *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, s.v. "covenant." Typically, in a covenant, the one with the upper hand, dictates the terms and forces the lesser to walk through those animals. Gen15:7-21; Jer 34:8-22

The oldest texts describing a covenant are from the **18th century BC!** A letter found in the ancient city of Mari, Syria, Ibal-Il reported to King Zimri-Lim: "I went to Aslakka to 'kill an ass' between the Hanu and Idamaras. . . . I caused the foal of an ass to be slaughtered. I established peace between the Hanu and Idamaras."

Another text found in the ancient city of Alalakh, modern Turkey, we read that Abban "placed himself under oath" to give Alalakh to Iarimlim "and had cut the neck of a sheep," saying, "If I take back that which I gave thee!" Abban's life would be cut if he reneged.

We STILL use "cut a deal" today!

What was most unusual in the Old Covenant, GOD sent His spirit to walk through the sacrifice, promising to carry the heavier end of debt.