

GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

STUDY 12
DEALING WITH DOUBT IN
THE JOURNEY OF FAITH
GENESIS 14-15



THE COVENANTAL PROMISES

Great Land

Genesis 13; 15: 18-21; 17:8

Great Nation

Genesis 15: 5; 17:2-5

Great Blessing

Genesis 12:3

Abraham
All Nations
of the
World

Genesis 12

Covenant Initiation



Genesis 15

Covenant Ceremony



Genesis 17

Covenant Sign



ABRAHAM IN EGYPT



ABRAHAM AND LOT IN
CAANAN

ANANAN

Bethel

Jerusalem

2,474 feet above sea level
(754 m)

Jericho

JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

Dead Sea
-1,410 feet below sea level
(-430 m)

Lot Chose

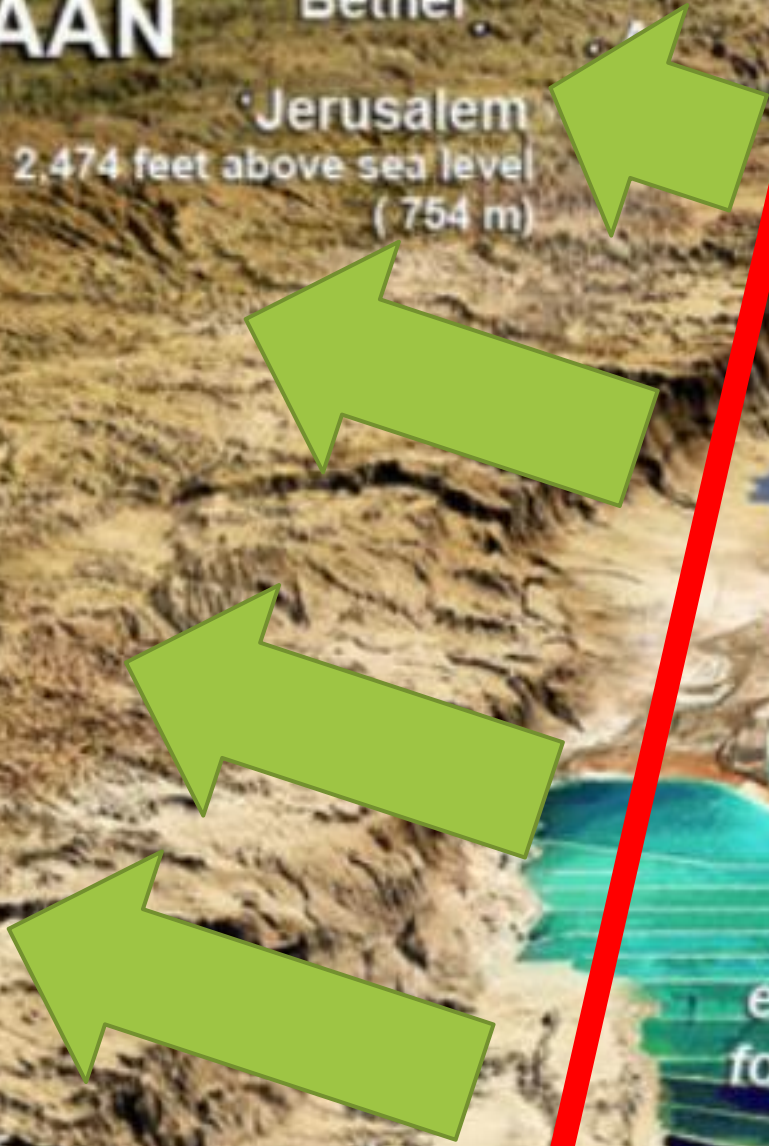
Sodom?
Bab El-M-Dhra

Dead Sea
evaporation pools
for mining minerals

Gomorrath?
Numeria

Zoar?

0:17
Miller
lish Bible®
ishBible.com



ANANAN

Bethel

Ai

Jericho

Jerusalem

2,474 feet above sea level
(754 m)

JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

Dead Sea

-1,410 feet below sea level
(-430 m)

Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

Sodom?
Bab Edh-Dhra

Dead Sea
evaporation pools
for mining minerals

Gomorrhah?
Numetia

Zoar?



GENESIS 14 MILITARY EXPLOITS OF ABRAHAM

Chedorlaomer Alliance
Kings of Shinar, Ellasar and
Golim

defeated

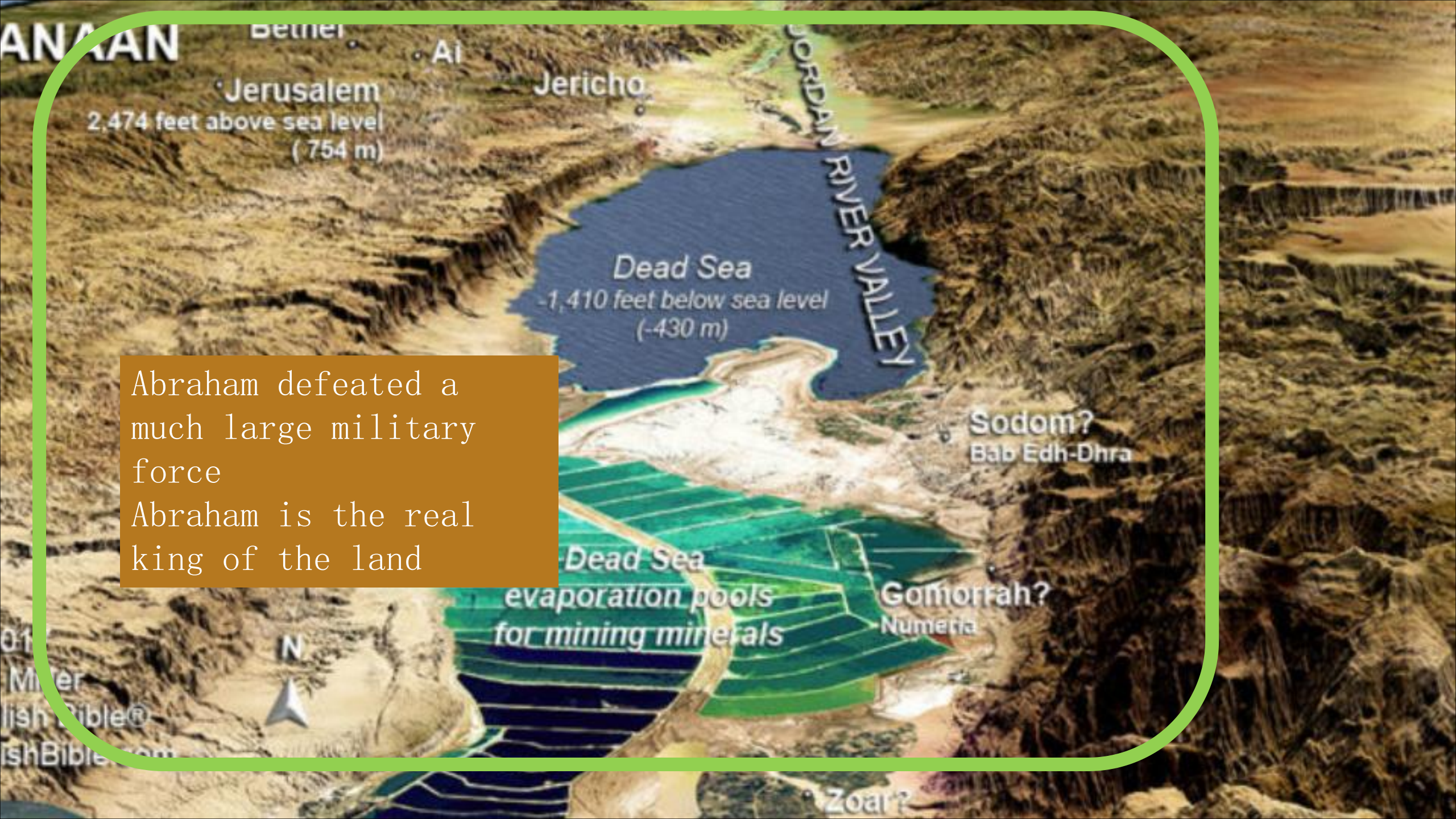
Kings of Sodom,
Gomorrah, Admah,
Zeboiim, and Zoa

KINGDOM UNDER FIRE



ABRAHAM TO THE RESCUE

Genesis 14:14-16 (ESV) When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He rescued Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.



Abraham defeated a much larger military force
Abraham is the real king of the land



GODS COVENANTAL PROMISES

Genesis 12:2–3 (ESV) And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse,

THE TWO OFFERS

Blessing

King of Sodom



RECOGNITION OF THE POWER GOD IN THIS MIRACULOUS MILITARY VICTORY

Genesis 14:19–20 (ESV) And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 and blessed be God Most High,

who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

HE WAS PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH
MELCHIZEDEK KING OF SALEM



King of Righteousness



Peace

There can only be peace where there is righteousness

Heb 7:2 He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

FORE RUNNER TO JESUS AS ULTIMATE HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 6:19–20 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

HE WAS PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH



Hebrews 7:3 (ESV) He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

PRIESTHOOD NOT DETERMINED BY LINEAGE



Signifies and eternal priest hood



Sacrificial system
Levitical law

MELCHIZEDEK SUPERIOR TO ABRAHAM AND LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

Hebrews 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

BY EXTENSION JESUS IS SUPERIOR

Hebrews 7:9–10 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

DIRECT APPOINTMENT

Hebrews 7:21-22 (ESV) but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,

‘You are a priest forever.’ ”

22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.



**A FORE RUNNER TO
CHRIST**

Psalms 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

TOOK VIRTUALLY NOTHING



Genesis 14:22-23 (ESV) But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’”

ALL GLORY TO GOD NOT MAN

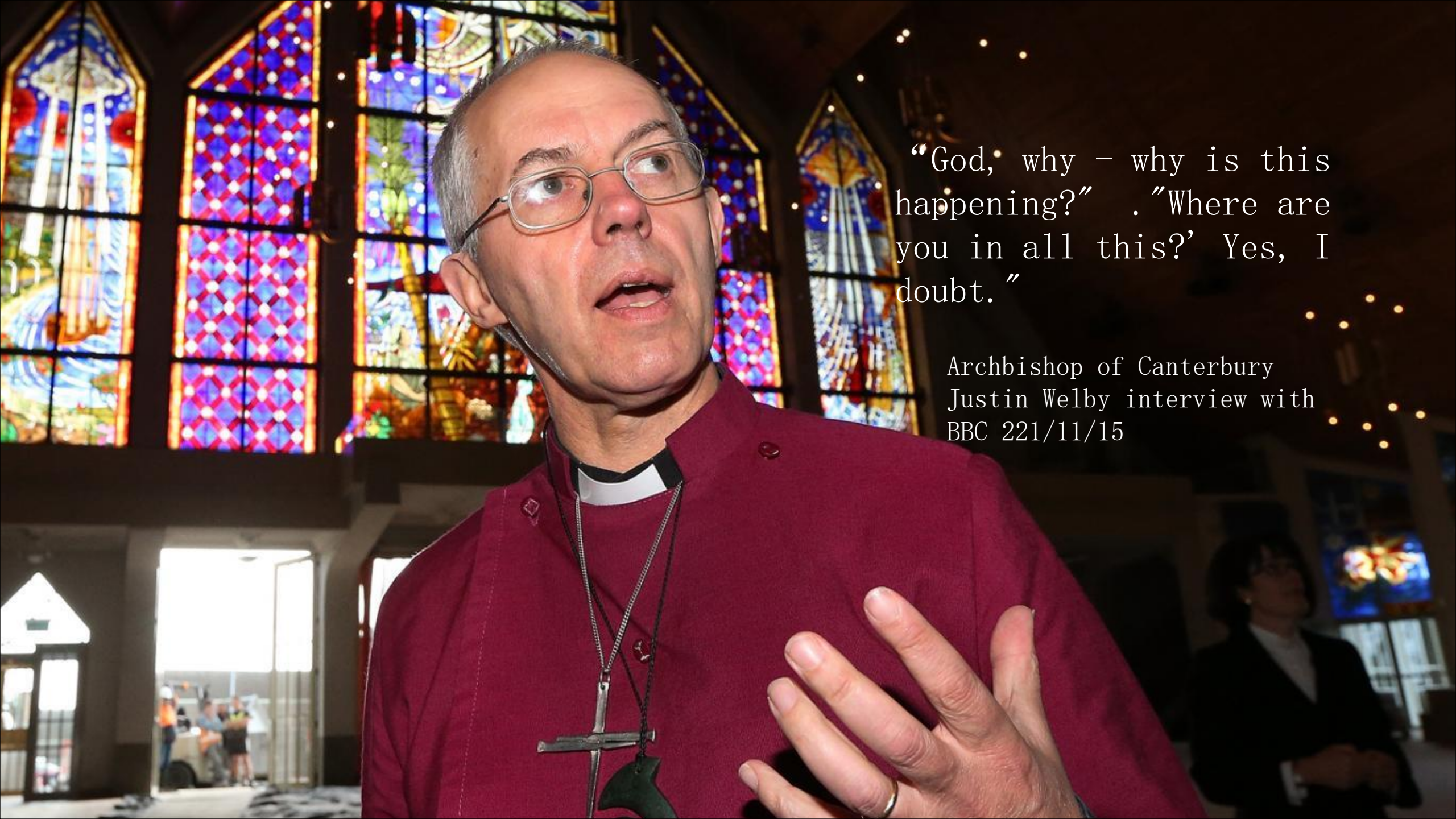
DOUBT

Genesis 15:1-3 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great

Jodie Foster
Wins Oscar for best
actress in the Accused
1989

Post success fears and doubt
s...Imposter syndrome





“God, why – why is this happening?” . “Where are you in all this?’ Yes, I doubt.”

Archbishop of Canterbury
Justin Welby interview with
BBC 221/11/15

True faith has no doubt

Doubt is the same as unbelief

MISCONCEPTIONS

A wooden mannequin arm is shown holding a large, light-colored rock. The rock has the word "MISCONCEPTIONS" written on it in bold, black, capital letters. The background is a plain, light blue-grey color.

If you begin with
FRANCIS BACON
certainty you will

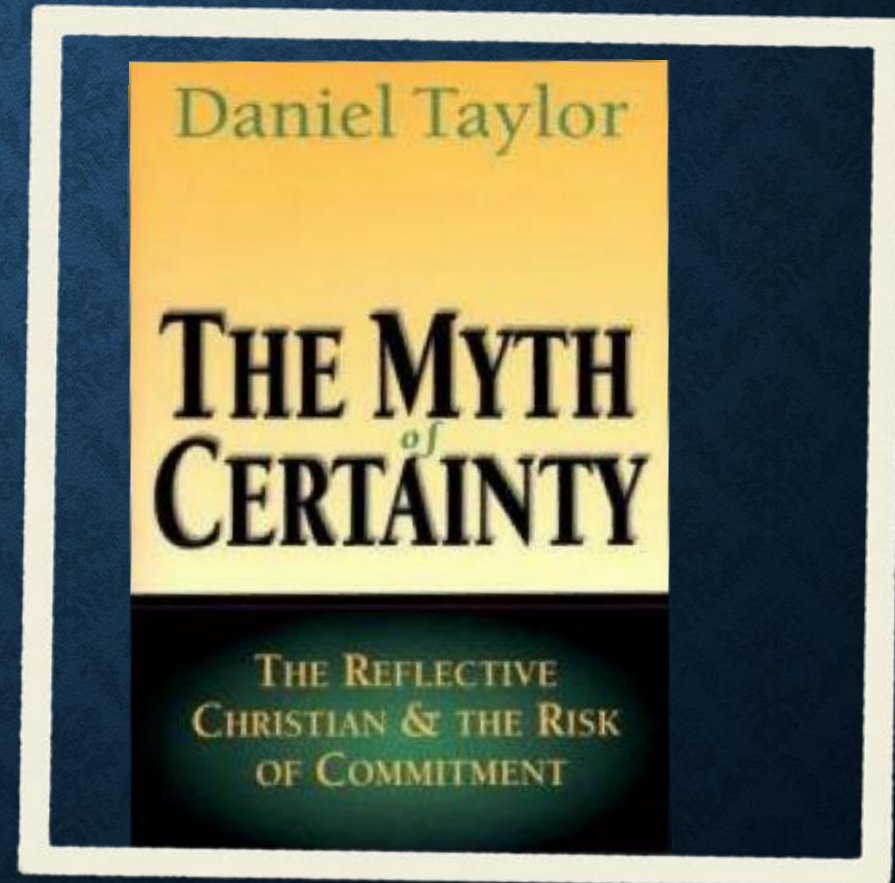
*end up with great
doubts*

*If you start off
with doubt you wind
up with great
certainty*



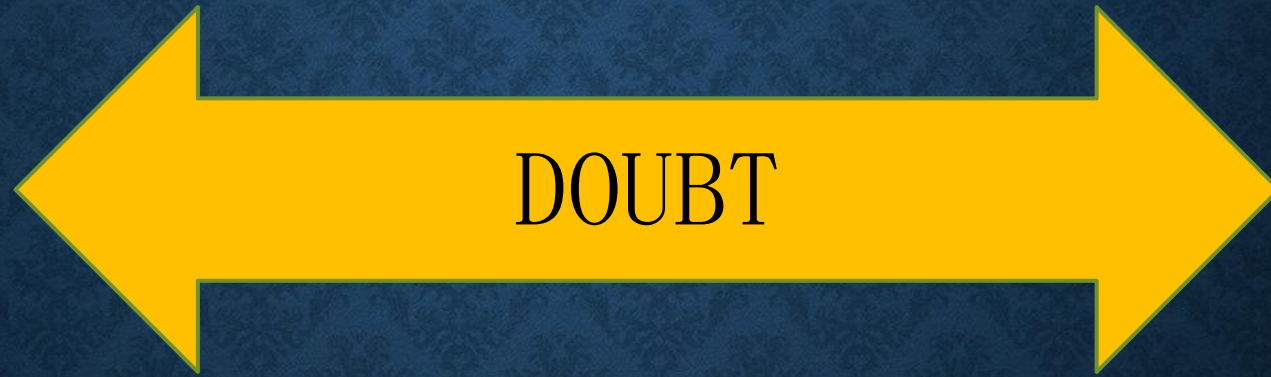
THE MYTH OF CERTAINTY

“Truth is best served, in my view, by our being equally unimpressed with those who claim to have it all, neatly tied in their own package, and with those who peddle the self-fulfilling cliché that there is no truth. Most people who live in the real world understand the foolishness of both.”



THE NATURE OF DOUBT

CERTAINTY

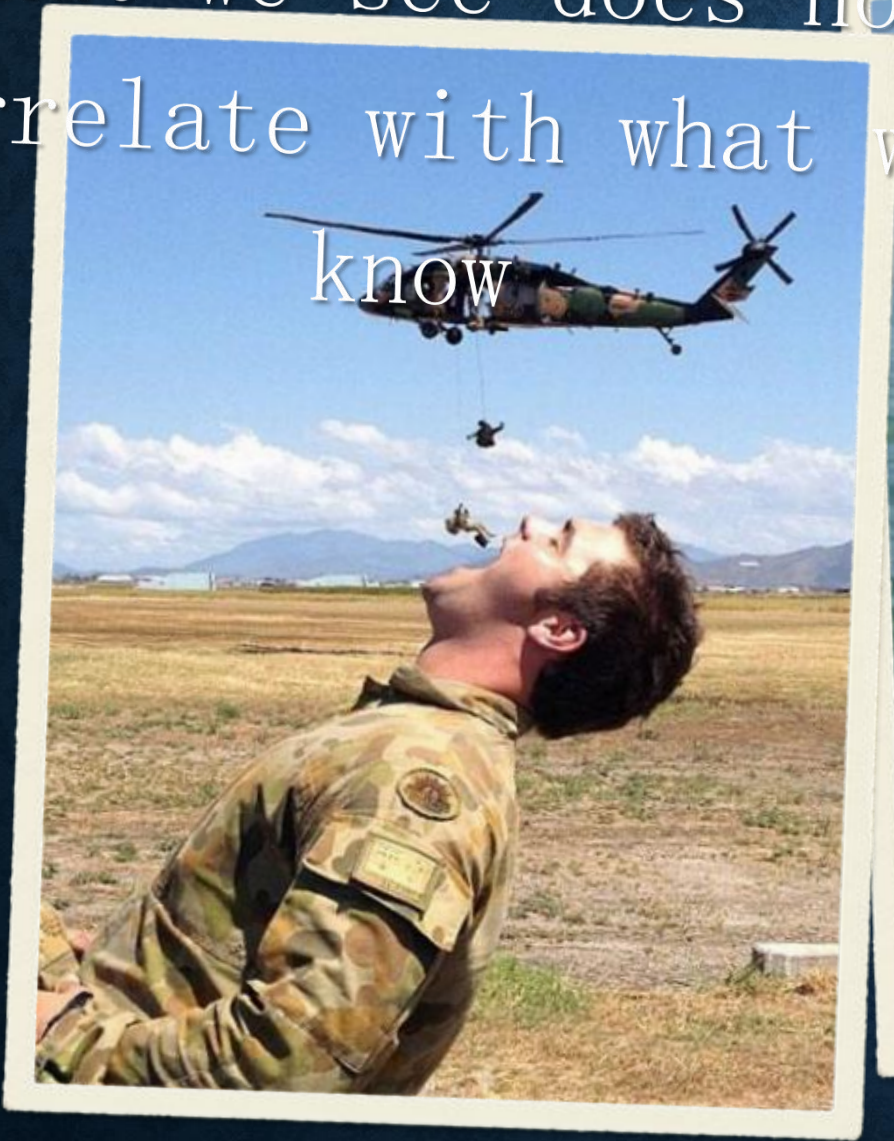


DOUBT

UNBELIEF

Doubt is like a coin spinning it will come down heads or tails. It has got to be resolved, but you don't need to feel bad about doubt. You just need to resolve it."

What we see does not
correlate with what we
know



DOUBT

Genesis 15:2 But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

A man and a woman are seen from behind, embracing each other and looking out a large, multi-paned window. The man is wearing a grey sweater, and the woman is wearing a white top. The window looks out onto a bright, green landscape with trees and a building in the distance. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

CHILDLESS

..and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”



CLASS REUNION

Doubt is based not on
new information but on
new experience

Psalms 73:1-3 Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

RESOLVE DOUBT

"Unless I am convinced
by Scripture and plain
reason, my conscience
is captive to the Word
of God.



Martin Luther

GOD'S WORD

Genesis 15:1 (ESV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

Genesis 15:4 (ESV) And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”

GRAPPLING WITH GOD'S PROMISES

Great Land

Further clarified
Gen 13: 14-17

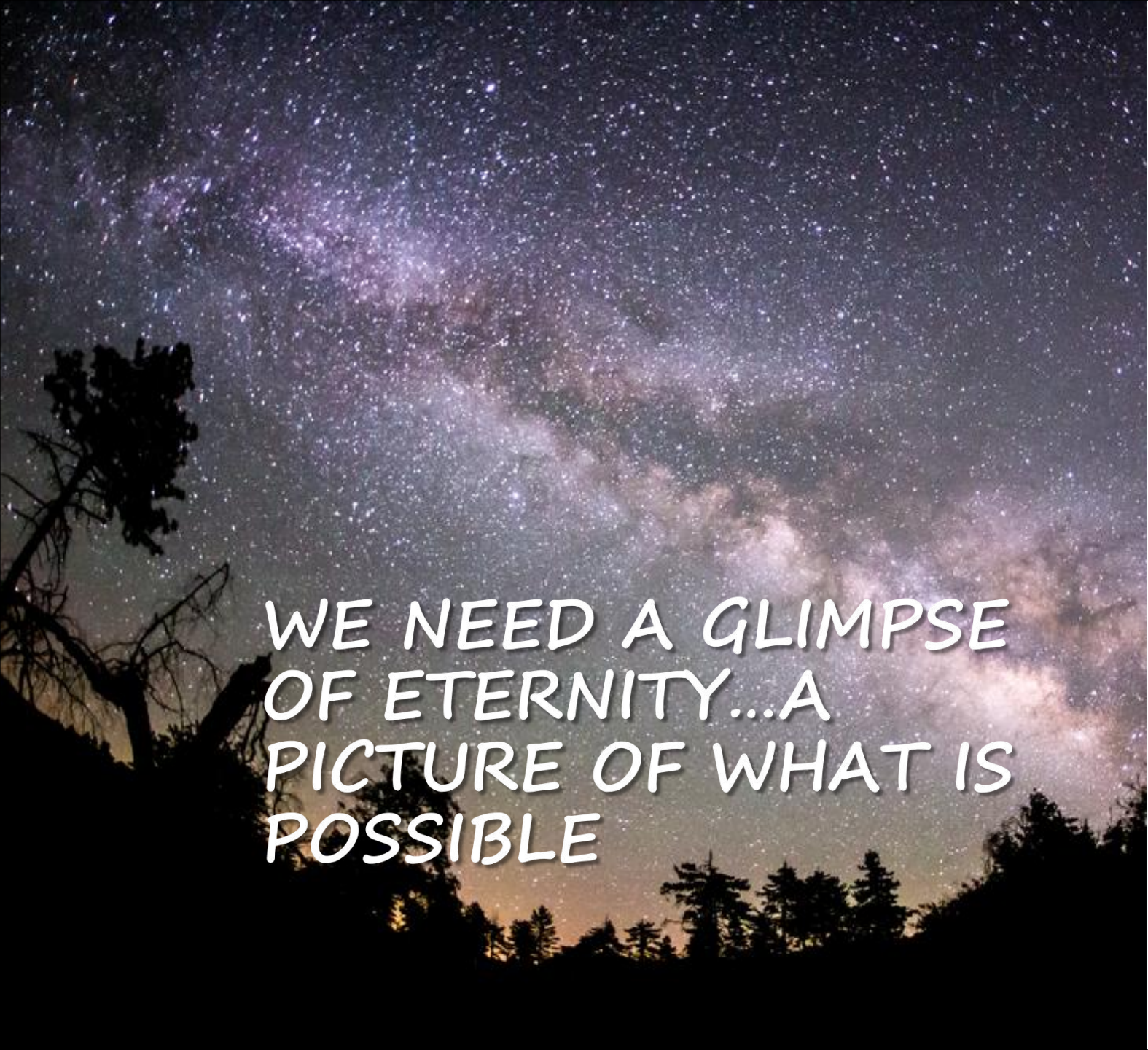
Great Nation

Further clarified
Gen 15

Great Blessing

Genesis 12:3


Abraham
All Nations
of the
World



WE NEED A GLIMPSE
OF ETERNITY...A
PICTURE OF WHAT IS
POSSIBLE

GOD SHOWS

Genesis 15:5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

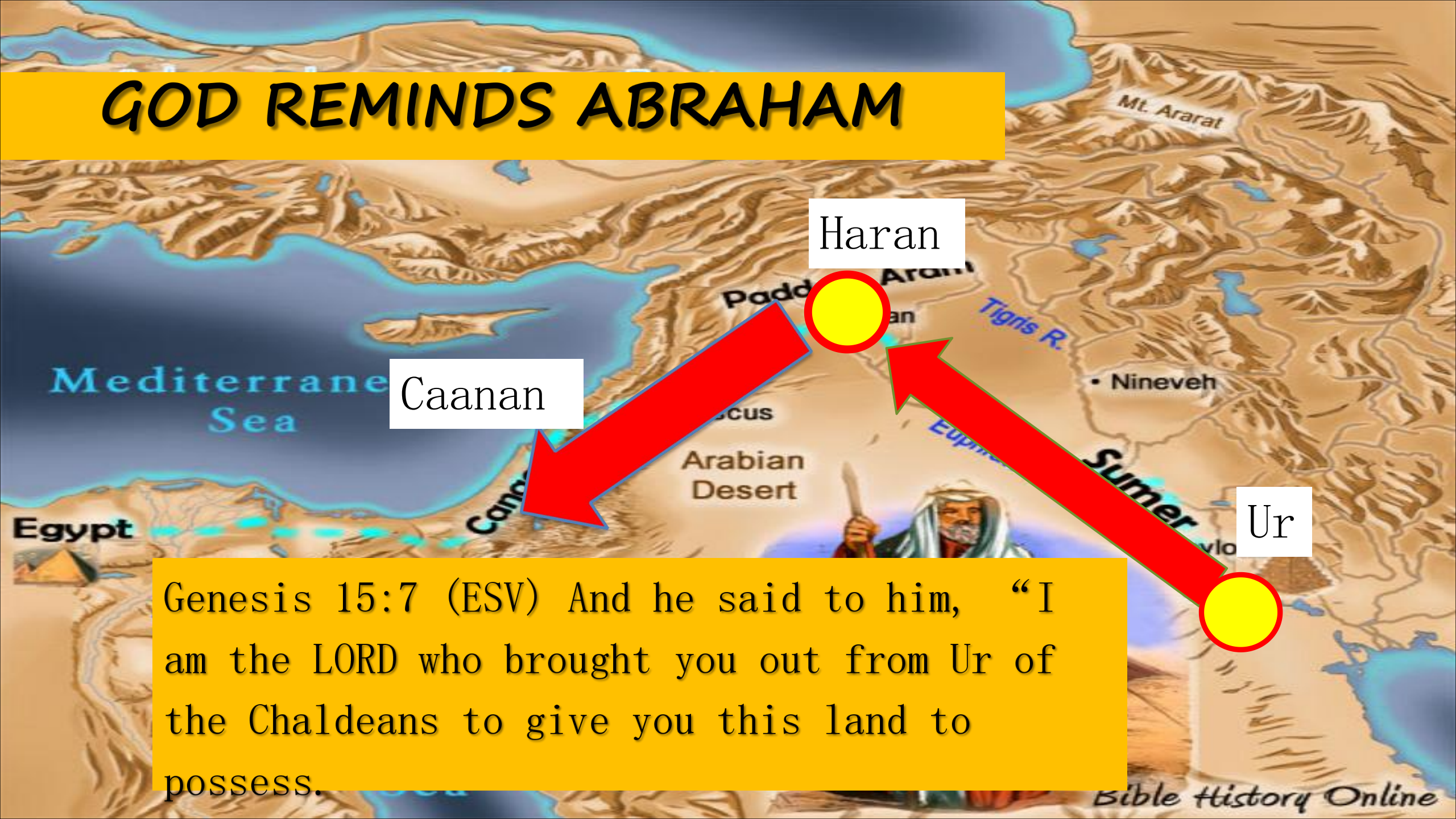


2 Corinthians 4:16-18 So
we do not lose heart.
Though our outer self is
wasting away, our inner
self is being renewed day
by day.

Glimpse Of Eternity

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

GOD REMINDS ABRAHAM



Haran

Caanan

Ur

Genesis 15:7 (ESV) And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.



ABRAHAM'S RESPONSE

Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness..

...means to confer a status on something that was not there before

PAUL

Romans 4: 1. What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”

Romans 4: 4. Now to the one who works,
his wages are not counted as a gift but
as his due. 5. And to the one who does
not work but believes in him who
justifies the ungodly, his faith is
counted as righteousness

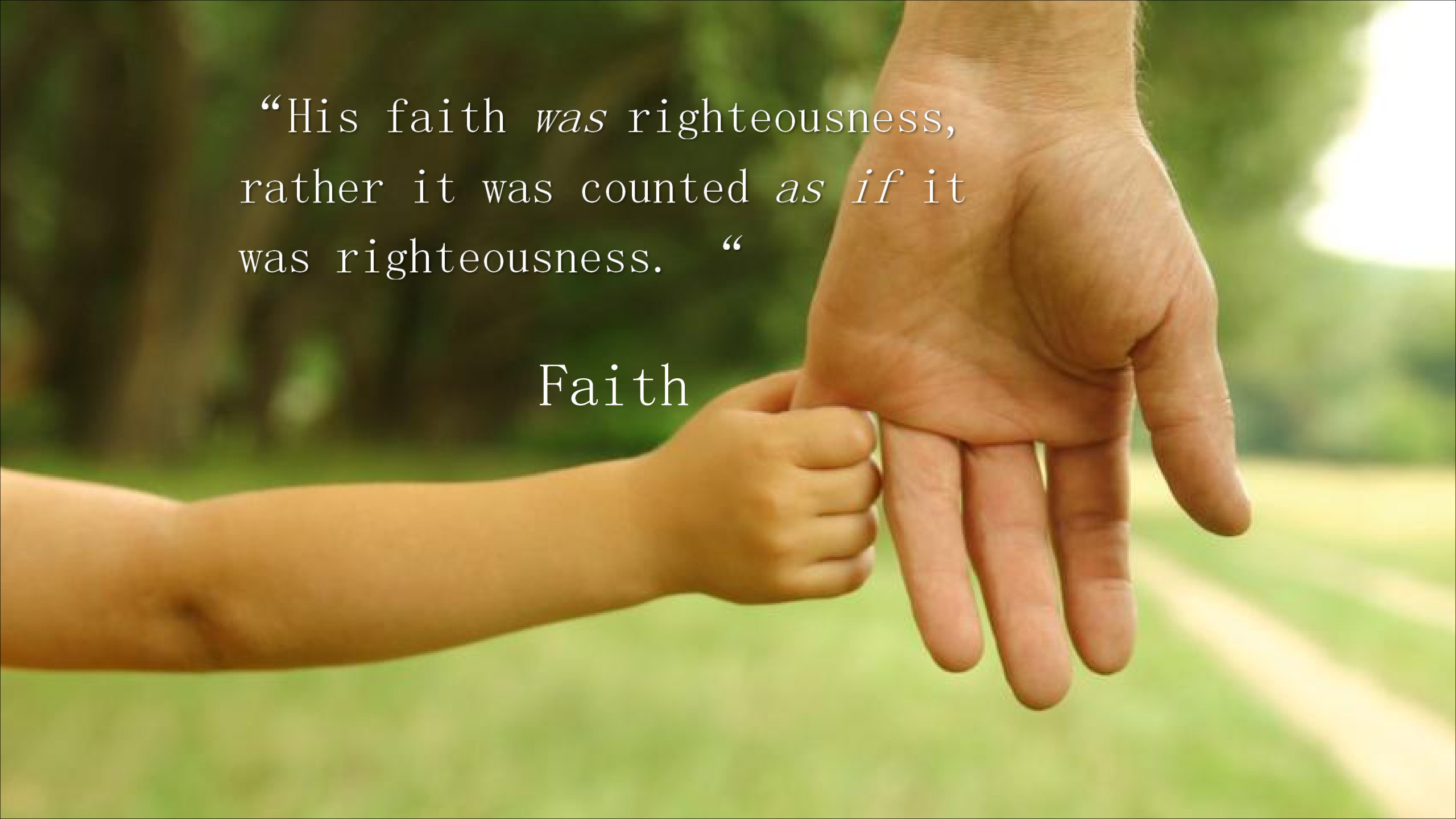
The one who refuses to worship..ungodly, wicked

WE DON'T BECOME GODLY ENOUGH TO BE ACCEPTED



Hearts into a certain level of submission and worship.

You don't 'clean up your life'



“His faith *was* righteousness,
rather it was counted *as if* it
was righteousness. “

Faith

ROMANS 4:7-8

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin



MARTIN LUTHER

simul justus et peccator

ABRAM'S FAITH

Did not know how he was credited

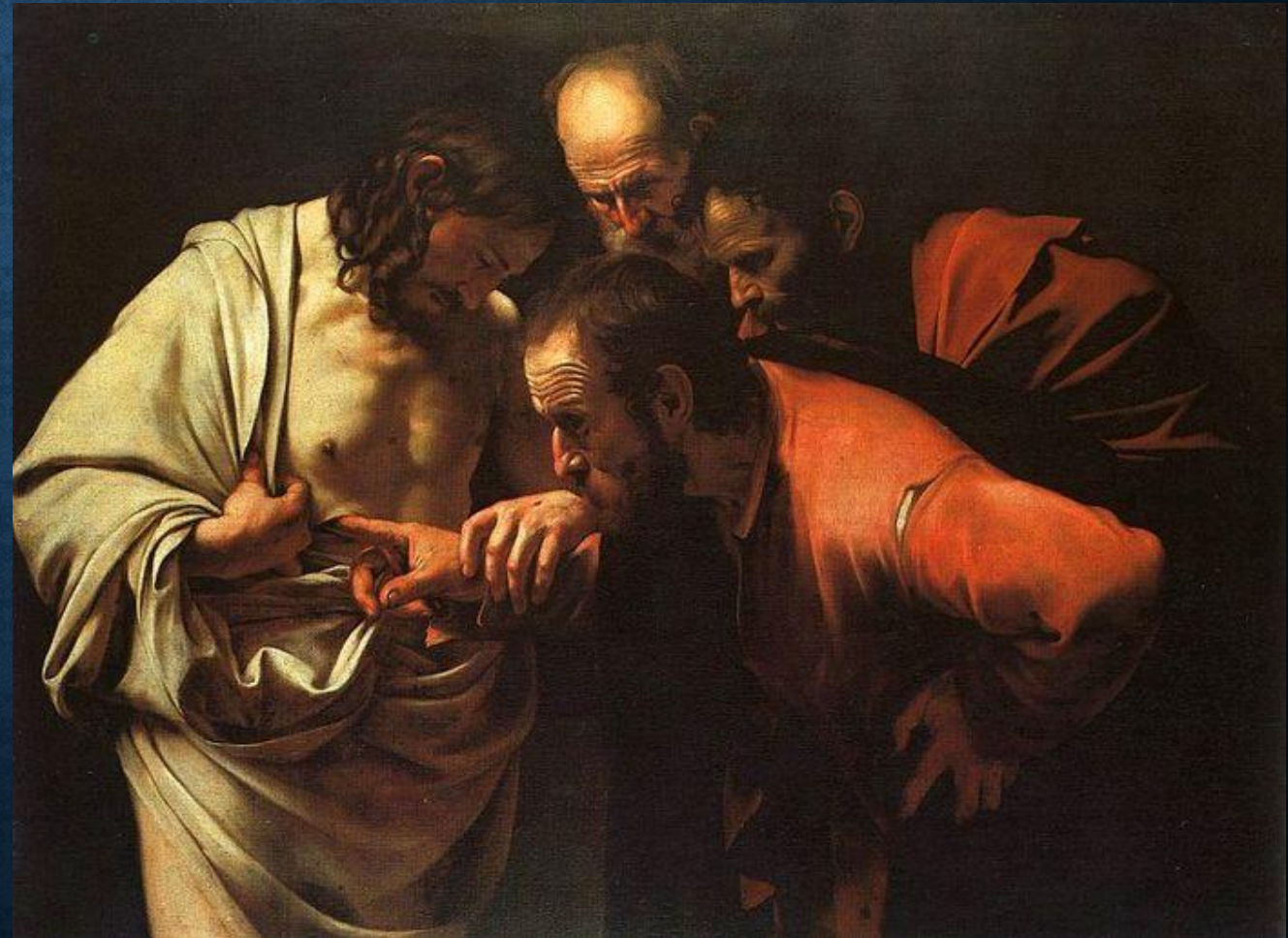


OUR FAITH

We know how we are credited



Genesis 15:8 (ESV) But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”



Genesis 12

Covenant Initiation



Genesis 15

Covenant Ceremony



Genesis 17

Covenant Sign

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY



THE BACKGROUND

Jeremiah 34:18–20 And the men who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before me, I will make them like the calf that they cut in two and passed between its parts— the officials of Judah, the officials of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf.

ONLY GOD PASSED BETWEEN THE ANIMAL PARTS

17. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces

Vassal always walk btw cut pieces

ONLY GOD PASSED BETWEEN THE ANIMAL PARTS

- 1. God is accountable for the promises and penalty of the covenant if He fails
- 2. Abraham does not pass through means when he fails God is accountable and will pay the price



THE LORD'S SUPPER

EVOKING MEMORY...PROVOKING HOPE

CONFIRMATION OF THE COVENANT

Genesis 15:18–21 (ESV) On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”



TURKEY

Caspian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

SYRIA

LEBANON

IRAQ

ISRAEL

IRAN

GREATER ISRAEL

SAUDI ARABIA

EGYPT

Red Sea

Persian Gulf