

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1, CBC, Sunday AM, March 9, 2025

Intro: one asked, what preaching? Genesis; thought finished; DID, Jacob to end; but if remember from August, as looked for new section of OT narrative, came back to Abraham; **concerned for roots, where do you get your identity**—Genesis focuses on beginnings; world, everything created including you and me; didn't start at beginning, but as did homework on Abraham's roots from Gen. 10-11, preached sermon called **"Where do you Get Your Name?"** followed those who gathered at Babel to make name for themselves, called it **a Legacy from earth to heaven**; they got so high, "Look at us", but God higher yet came down and scattered them; **if they so wrong, what is right way?** What does God want? **11:10** shifted focus to line from Shem—follow names **vv. 10-16** recognize them from larger genealogy in chapter 10—**10:21** shows that Eber is dividing line—**10:25-26** follows Joktan; **line ends w Babel**; come back to **11:17** and you'd think only son who mattered was Peleg—this line ends w Terah's 3 sons; vv. 28-32 show main players in act to come; Abraham, called it **legacy from heaven to earth**; **why?** because next words come from God to Abram 12:1 **Now the LORD said to Abram**—this exposed second reason for choosing Abraham; **concerned for roots of faith in God**—**What is faith?** synonyms believe, trust, confidence, reliance; something solid—what is SOLID in your life? where do you look for SOLID? remember, taught about "girl math" where want something to be true, so it is; that's not solid thinking; but solid desires drive "girl math" **underneath words/actions/personalities/even underneath our skepticism/critiques, we ALL are believers**, but WHAT/in WHOM do you believe? **Faith includes facts/logic of putting facts together, but more**—words like optimism, hope, expectation, inspiration, motivation go with faith and speak of the feeling/emotion/heart/desire part of faith; **okay, what does it mean to "have faith in"/to "trust God"?** **when can you with confidence call yourself a Christian?** Christians ARE believers/have faith; no faith in God, then no reconciliation with God, no ability to please Him Heb. 11:6, no heaven, no Christian; **what is faith accepted by God, saving, born again faith, evidence of Spirit of God?** note place of faith AND tie to Abraham in so many verses **Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:2-3, 9, 22, Gal. 3:6, Jm. 2:23**; Faith has become personal, faith story/journey is our own, and often tied more to emotions and experiences than to any fact/reality; **Faith God approves IS personal, but its focus is more communal than individual**—**Gal. 3:6-8, Rom. 4:11, Gal. 3:27-29**;—this tie b/n Abraham & faith & faith to our relationship w God makes **Abraham VERY important**; Boice, "with the exception of Jesus Christ, Abraham is probably the most important person in the Bible." P. 435 Gen. 1-11 covers some 2000+ years—at least 19 generations—14 chapters for this one man chs. 12-36; many other giants in Scripture, but Abraham seen as father in faith; many ways, history of redemption starts w God's call to him; Boice notes Jesus' genealogy in Matthew goes back to Abram 1:1; Zecharias speaks of fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham Lk. 1:68, 72-73; **3x called friend of God** (II Chron. 20:7, Is. 41:8, Jm. 2:23) **long section in Heb. 11**, (vv. 8-12, 17-19) **showing believed God and lived out that belief in way that God approved**; **Rom. 15:4-6** says that looking to Abraham is bringing God's story of individuals to His intended relevance for everyday living; 2 sermons on 12:1-9 called **Roots of Biblical Faith**—gave premise from the passage concerning roots of faith; **Biblical faith begins with God's call, is motivated by God's promise, and responds with obedience and worship because of the worthiness of the One who called.**

I. The Call of God **1 Now the LORD said to Abram**, "Go forth 3 froms separating Abram from 3 things that identify person **from your country** **Ur/Haran**, places call home/feel settled, **And from your relatives** your people; culture--language, customs, definitions, how you do things—how create/maintain community, celebrate, settle conflicts, grieve, **leave these like you who "get you,"** **And from your father's house**, closest, tightest relationships as God intended—those considered PART OF YOU; Leave/separate from all these; forward gaze of call, NOT backward; **Go forth . . . To the land which I will show you**; there is another place than the one where you are settled; the ones that are familiar, have been good to you; THAT is place I will show you; number of ways to break down what follows; first of 7 "I wills," 5-fold blessing; **II. The Promises of God** **2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**" Not only would others see/desire to be blessed like Abraham, he would be channel of blessing for whole world; **III. The Response of Man vv. 4-5** God spoke, v. 1 Go/Leave halak, **4 So Abram halak went forth**; hear echoes of God's first creation in this new step in God's plan of redemption; God spoke, Abram DID **as the LORD had spoken to him**; when we say one of TOP biblical examples of faith, this is no "faith is like trusting your weight to chair example," or disagreeing with people who throw out God's moral standards, or leaving Bible on desk at work to show great faith, OR showing faith by showing up at church as big sacrifice instead of sleeping in or going to the mountains/beach, **Ross calls it life-changing act of faith** p. 259-260; 75 years old, patterns of living deeply set, he goes affecting not just him but **5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran**; v. 6 notes that passed through land—no welcome home party, in fact, perhaps reason stayed in hill country was because verse ends **Now the Canaanite was then in the land. Ross, they are antagonists throughout book of Genesis; land inhabited by others**; to this obedience of faith, right in place of Canaanites place of worship, in midst of others who did not fear God **7 The LORD appeared to Abram and reaffirmed His promise and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."** There is SOLID way past Abraham's life to descendants; **How do you know he believed--didn't have to have it all now in order for it to be true?** **So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. not only obeyed God, but worshipped.** pattern as did again in v. 8, expect pattern to continue as **9 Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev**. What an example of faith—close the book and live it! Yes, but this is not Hallmark movie where God and Abraham go off into the sunset

together after v. 9 as credits roll, we have more given of this example of faith; **Not merely looking for an example of faith, but a life of faith**—what does this life include? Very simply **Biblical, saving faith includes the conflict of faith. Conflict Exposes the True Shape of Our Faith and Provides an Opportunity to See God’s Hand**

I. The Conflict of Faith Exposes Our True Values vv. 10-13

A. Crisis Expose Fears vv. 10-12

10 Now there was a famine in the land; v. 9 Negev--Rolling hills that end abruptly in desert region (Zondervan Pictorial Dictionary) key part of strategic strip of land binding Asia and Africa together; don’t know if this picture fair, Kidner says area well people in time of Abraham, like sub-Saharan belt across Africa must always have been a marginal region—not much rain; Baldwin calls it barren country south of Beersheba/Negeb (south) dry in summer, but rest of months, pasture land; but not now; wonder how long been in land b/r finds land can’t support him; far from milk and honey Israelites would talk about later; **This is bad, VERY bad:** how much food left? You mean for us, or for the animals? Well most of the grain is gone, some of the chickens aren’t laying eggs, the sheep/cattle pretty scrawny—don’t know, 3 weeks, maybe more if we eat the animals; **I’ve heard there is food in Egypt—NO! We stay; Thank-you God for providing for us; let’s eat!** how much now? Less than last time you asked; **I’ve heard there is food in Egypt—NO, we stay here; Okay, but people are grumbling, hungry, no food in future; tell them to be thankful for what have—if they picky, they NOT hungry;** already seen Abraham as good manager, was prosperous in Haran—servants and wealth **12:5** took them from Haran to Canaan, through land; what is responsible? **number noted that Chaldea very fertile—perhaps not used to famine;** now moving past picky/scraping by--not WHICH food/High prices like our eggs/other foods, but NO food at any price; Egypt keeps coming up—long been called granary of world—unlike Canaan, not dependent only on rainfall, but annual overflow of Nile and **then irrigation of the Tigris-Euphrates river valley** Matthews; growing fear for survival for self and all under his charge as **the famine was severe in the land.** that’s it, we’re going to Egypt—YES! Finally plan that will meet our needs; **so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there,** moved toward life/toward food; big deal—caravan Baldwin, **if Abram arrived in Egypt about 2090 BC . . .** then centre of power city state called Herakleopolis about 60 miles south of Memphis—40 years later, further south to Thebes; Abram went far beyond Goshen/up Nile valley to royal capital **Pack it all up, caravan moves forward 11 It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman;** what? What made him get close to Egypt and notice her beauty? Remember, at least 65 years old cf. 12:4—can look beautiful at 65—remember lived to 127, had no children yet which has effect on body, BUT lived outside all time/think Florida stereotype w skin; **How sweet! Thank-you!** Hold that thought--what are you expecting when think of Egypt? Initial study blew away; Baldwin—probably heard glories of Egypt when in Ur—ancient culture reached peak of splendour in Old Kingdom period (2680-2180) during which pyramids were built, and religious and wisdom literature flourished; much grandeur to see—**first great step pyramid, first major structure of cut stone in history,** Baldwin rose 204 feet high/tallest structure of its time. **The surrounding complex included temple, courtyards, shrines, and living quarters for the priests covering an area of 40 acres and surrounded by wall 30 feet high. The wall had 13 false doors cut into it with only one true entrance cut in south-east corner; entire wall ringed by trench 2,460 feet long/131 feet wide. The false doors and trench incorporated into complex to discourage unwanted guests. If one wished to visit inner courtyard/temples, one would have needed to have been told how to enter.** <https://www.worldhistory.org/article/362/the-great-pyramid-of-giza/> **Two more slides** **Djoser statue in the Cairo museum. Sadly, tomb robbers removed his eyes made of rock crystal, alabaster and obsidian. reigned from 2667-2648 BC or BCE, 59 years before King Khufu who built Great Pyramid at Giza, 1312 years before Tutankhamen, 1369 years before Ramses II (“Ramses the Great”)** <https://www.seeingthepast.com/blog/stepped-pyramid> **this pyramid 600 years old as Abram drew near to Egypt, this is BIG—not just little collection of tents; Pharaoh over whole nation, not just little areas like Canaan; you were saying something about my great beauty; yes, as I’ve been walking, been thinking—Egypt big, powerful, rumors of Asiatic infiltrators like us had caused trouble in the Delta region of Egypt some decades earlier, creating political upheaval.** Baldwin don’t have much leverage here—if suspicious/don’t like us; at their mercy **12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. Your beauty will be the death of me!** Fear of death by famine now dwarfed by fear of death b/c of beautiful wife—**as looks ahead, sees independence dissipating and fears growing**

B. Our Actions Reflect Our Priorities and Values v. 13

I’ve got plan, not demanding, I’m asking/pleading **13 “Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.”** Whaaatt? b/r go crazy w how awful, **Gen. 20:11-13** Hurrian marriage custom to adopt new bride as “sister” to elevate social status, Waltke; Hoffmeier speaks of diplomatic marriage—since no daughters, substituted their wives for purpose of enacting a treaty Matthews Since must negotiate for marrying sister; time to escape; **Custom/cultural norm? but that means they might give Sarah away as wife, not very straightforward/deceptive; um . . . don’t like, is that final plan?** might not happen, we’ll probably be back with no harm done—**um . . . what do we gain**—well, I think it will go better for me if we do this, AND I might live—they could kill me; you have a lot of power in this Sarai—what you decide can make/break us—but you don’t have to; **she central though don’t hear**

word from her; can feel judgments rising; Waltke: better defiled than dead--not philosophy that establishes God's kingdom in pagan world; **Be careful w judgments!** Calvin, "Since this place is like a rock, on which many strike; it is proper that we should soberly and reverently consider how far Abram was deserving of excuse, and how he was to be blamed." P. 359 **famine** sign of God's judgment? Nothing giving that impression though other times in Scripture see that Deut. 28:23-24, Ruth 1:6 **wrong to go** to Egypt? Often seen as place went when trusting man instead of God; don't get that impression; **Didn't** love wife? **NO Calvin**, Perhaps DID care for wife, would die for her a hundred times, but DID think on promise of God tied to Himself—didn't say through Sarah yet as would seek to have Ishmael be the heir of promise; **Where's His faith in God?** I don't know—don't have enough information **DO know Abram IN this position of crisis and fears b/c believed word of God**—followed God's command and hope of His promises to this place, little at time through many unknowns, left familiar, close, barren wife, father died on way, wandering in new home w probably cruel pagans, **Tough to just come out of life being prosperous, obeyed God through hardship, God appeared to confirm promises, now THIS!** Calvin, "But now being expelled by hunger from that land, where, in reliance on the word of God, he had promised himself a happy life, supplied with all abundance of good things, what must have been his thoughts, had he not been well fortified against the devices of Satan? And we know, that whenever our expectation is frustrated, and things do not succeed according to our wishes, our flesh soon harps on this string, 'God has deceived thee.'" P. 357 **Circumstances provide canvas to show object of faith**; didn't go back to Ur/Haran where familiar/provisions **Heb. 11:15-16**; 3 patriarchs migrate b/c of famine/Jacob TOLD to go to Egypt; didn't plan to stay—sojourn (Naomi 10 years in Moab b/c of famine Ruth 1:1,4) **Kidner**, "Abram had to feel his way forward without a special revelation at every step, guided like us largely by circumstances." P. 116 WHAT does it mean to live by faith? **But DO know even w all pieces, fears grew loud**—good values (provide for own, life at stake, family torn apart), **but amazing what fears do to priorities and judgment** Calvin, wise to guard against evil, yet this fear exceeded all bounds, unreasonable anxiety caused him to involve himself in another fault p. 362 Sees an out w cultural technicality, deceived by giving impression that Sarah nothing more than sister to him; Bush notes affirming her to be his sister was virtually denying her to be his wife—just as good as direct falsehood; WRONG, but continues, important difference between uttering a lie and concealing a truth or a part of the truth; ie. Moses w Pharaoh wished to go 3 days journey Ex. 3:18, David w Achish I Sam. 29:1-7; Paul told part of truth Acts 23:6 p. 204 while give room for pieces not considering/messy, must call out sin—loved safety and security more than God, so sinned ^{Duguid} we hear lot of logic, not much about faith; Phillips, in face of fear, simply forgot the Lord (this is what acting in unbelief includes); **"For Abram, the promises of God which he could not see, were dwarfed by the fearful reality of the danger that he could see."** p. 516 in face of fear, forgot glory and power of the God who had called him to faith; **what fears do you face? BE CAREFUL: just b/c see things that justify some of your fears doesn't make plans right--all alert verses for times like this** Boice: "Whenever you want to do something wrong, you will always be able to find some good reasons for doing it. If you cannot think of them yourself, the Devil will supply them." P. 476

II. **The Conflict of Faith Involves Living out the actions of our present faith vv. 14-16**

14 It came about when Abram came into **Egypt**, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. Bush, Hebrew implies fairness of complexion—likely to attract attention of darker coloured Egyptians; Keil/Delitzch, Egyptians wives according to both ancient and modern testimony were generally ugly, and faded early p. 126 **same words as v. 11 means RIGHT w fears** 15 **Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.** Wait—how could that happen? Power/greed—Naboth, Bathsheba, Sodom Gen. 19—start realizing something more—**traditions/cultural norms**; who sets those? Can be thankful for USA loosely founded under fear of God (maybe not regenerated); God's law cared **Deut. 21:10-14** not just kidnapped 16 **Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep** can also include goats **and oxen and donkeys** important animal for riding and plowing—only unclean animal whose firstling required redemption Ex. 13:13 **and male and female servants and female donkeys** servants in between donkeys to separate strong sexual drive of donkeys p. 214 **and camels.** possession of rare animal (camel) spoke of wealth and status Gen. 24; at rear of caravan, wealthy and dignified members of family rode high upon their camels looking gratefully over their blessings stretched in front of them; Waltke Like Abram? Don't know, liked what got/Sarah; **Same word for well as v. 13**—know what means? Got all this stuff in exchange for wife—went well; No, wife worth more than stuff; **yup, but so far, 2 for 2—v. 13 we get stuff, I'm alive** AND, we'll get you out—in messy way, plan working even as probably still worried about getting wife and leaving; **You should be afraid about some things, even right w some of what you feared, but are you sure fears in right order and response to them right?** Doesn't matter, this is where he is right now—had to live it

III. **The Conflict of Faith Always Includes the Lord's Hand vv. 17-13:1**

First time hear God mentioned in this passage, it is in judgment—judgment of Pharaoh?!? 17 **But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.** Uh-oh; sleep well? NO; contrast b/n Abram "well" v. 16 and Pharaoh; same word for 10 plagues Ex. 11 (patterns in Genesis)—one says Hebrew focuses on severity of plagues, term speaks of skin disease spoken about in Lev. 13, not sure; 18 **Then Pharaoh called Abram and said**, has been going better than I

could have thought, Yes, you called? “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 “Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? first thoughts defensive? who told? Sarah? don’t know—NOT focus (nor should it be when so worried about knowledge w others); Matthews, 3 questions show indignant anger/behavior an offense against him personally hear echoes of Eden? Gen. 3:11,13; Ross “Once again in Genesis, through fear and disobedience, the intimacy of the man and the woman is broken; once again someone has taken that which God had put off limits. P. 276 amazing, now someone else afraid—pagan king/the great “immortal” Pharaoh; almost ache for Pharaoh Calvin, “But it is asked, whether Pharaoh was justly punished, seeing that he neither intended, by guile nor by force, to gain possession of another man’s wife? I answer, that the actions of men are not always to be estimated according to our judgment, but are rather to be weighed in the balances of God; for it often happens, that the Lord will find in us what he may justly punish, while we seem to ourselves to be free from fault, and while we absolve ourselves from all guilt. . . . For, although no fault openly appears in Pharaoh; yet, since he has not faithful monitor among men, who dares to repress his licentiousness, the Lord chastises him from heaven. As to his family, it was indeed innocent; but the Lord has always just causes, though hidden from us, why he should smite with his rod those who seem to merit no such rebuke.” P. 364 Here, God uses Pharaoh to rebuke Abram Bush—sad when saints justly fall under the reproof of the wicked; silence points to guilt; Now then, here is your wife, immediately gives back; seems hadn’t consummated marriage—remember 12 months for Esther’s preparation Es. 2:12 take her and go.” No room for discussion 20 Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him. Calvin, seems guard was to keep him from violence—perhaps from Egyptians who were proud and cruel at being deceived AND Abram becoming rich from it carrying away their spoil what think as leave—woohoo, out of there alive—yes, but . . .

Conclusion: application around main thoughts: Biblical Faith includes the Conflict of Faith; Conflict Exposes the True Shape of Our Faith and Provides an Opportunity to See God’s Hand 1. Deception is Dangerous—so much to talk about—do I tell all? Mislead? no matter extenuating circumstances, Bush, should have told the whole truth committing the disposal of affair entirely to providence of God, relying on his promises and confident of his protection; because he didn’t, had to trust a carnal policy which taught him that fear of man brings a snare—“The simple, straight-forward, honest course of truth, candour, and pious dependence on God is always safest and best.” P. 205 Jehovah Jireh—cast ourselves implicitly upon his guidance for direction and that is why focus in this episode is God’s faithfulness to His word in face of deception; Sailhamer--in nearly every episode the promise of numerous seed, blessing to all families of earth, or gift of land placed in jeopardy by actions of characters of narrative—promise of 12:1-3 looks as if it will fail. “In the face of such threat, however, the narratives show that God always remains faithful to his word and that he himself enters the arena and safeguards the promise. The purpose of such a recurring narrative theme is to show that only God can bring about his promise. Man’s failure cannot stand in the way of God’s promise.” P. 141 Ps. 105:12-15, God’s power/honor seen, NOT Abram’s Ross: “This deliverance in no way condoned the deception; rather, it embarrassed it.” P. 272 Abram was supposed to be blessing to nations showing God’s character and care and left anything but good fragrance “A foreigner who has called down the plagues of Yahweh by his relationship with the wife of this blessed man must separate himself from the source of divine blessing.” Coats in Ross p. 277 Don’t hear of ever returning to Egypt; endangers Sarah and promised seed; wealth part of God’s provision to bless, yet would cause strife w herdsmen; Ross: tension over Egyptian maid named Hagar, possibly included among maidservants mentioned in verse 16 (Gen. 16); so quickly move past this to another high point? 2. Failure to include conflict in faith leads to antinomianism or introspection with a gaze on yourself instead of God. disenchantment with yourself and/or God, doubts with no reason or tools to fight them, Still meandering through Elizabeth Prentiss—different set of kids each day so different books/verses reading when have devotional time together—last time, I read you amazing examples of faith of father, of her faith—some struggle, but later in her life, reading about dark time—“Throughout church history, many exemplary Christians have testified to passing through some kind of ‘dark-night-of-the-soul’ experience in which they possess no conscious sense of the presence of God. This sense of desertion can serve to wean a Christian away from an excessive reliance on feeling.” P. 165 much could read, but husband concluded had to do w rise of perfectionists—Madam Guyon/French mystic and Book by Robert Pearsall Smith, can holiness be achieved by faith? “Perfectionists, she observed, pour scorn on the vast majority of Christians as ‘ordinary’ and ‘miserable doubters’. They deny the truth that God chastises those he loves. These say that true religion is rapture, not conflict. They claim exclusive knowledge of truth, and accuse anyone who doubts perfectionist claims of doubting God himself.” Such positions angered Elizabeth. ‘Imagine soldiers getting ready for warfare, being told by their commander that they had no need to drill, and had nothing to do but drink nectar.’” P. 168--Abraham left trail of yuck, not blessing to nations, but this dark part of life of faith—NOT to be hidden or denied—why? 3. Faith Grows, it does not just appear Rom. 1:5 There is no contradiction between a present enjoyment of justification and a proper sense of shame about past sin. Both mark the maturing Christian. Robert Jones Bad Memories Getting Past Your Past, P & R, 2004 gracequotes fears, responses, need to be unpacked and prioritized in light of the gospel, according to God’s Word, and keeping God in His place leading right actions; we often focus on how to eliminate fears. but what are roots of living by faith in face of fears Boice: should have trusted God that didn’t bring him to Canaan to starve—same as later descendents Ex. 16:3, 17:3 – should have dealt w next step saying God will provide—God was

beginning to teach Abram this; “Are we not, then, to see the circumstances? No, we must see them. It is no step in spiritual growth to be blind to reality. Our difficulty is not that we see the circumstances but that we fail to see the whole picture, a picture that includes not only the earthly circumstances but also the God who is the God of circumstances.” P. 474 Peter knew water was dangerous before got out of the boat—took eyes off Jesus and looked only at dangerous water; 2 spies saw giants and grasshoppers, but also the greatness of God that other 10 forgot/failed to see; don’t waste opportunities for growth when confronted by fears or insurmountable problems; What do your patterns of sin in the midst of life’s difficulties expose about your deep heart loyalties?” Duguid, tough situations don’t cause my sin, but by bringing my fears to the surface, they expose my heart idolatry; what do you fear and how does that fear lead you to sin? Duguid, p. 19 Phillips quotes Dale Ralph Davis “Most of us have ‘been there.’ We have the promises of God but we don’t rub them into our circumstances . . . we don’t apply what we know in the situation we’re in.” p. 518 undoubtedly one of God’s purposes in this trial is to train our faith to remember his promises when we are faced with fear; Phillips **4. Look for the mercies of God.** LOOK HOW THIS ENDS **1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.** Last time heard go, it was from God—now from Pharaoh—but led him back to land of promise—God’s hand through rebuke, through protection bookends this section, **God brought Abram back to Canaan enriched not merely w stuff, but lesson of faith in face of fear; Phillips may we learn this lesson as well and have hope during the conflict of faith**

Genesis 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Deuteronomy 21:10–14 “When you go out to battle against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take them away captive, ¹¹ and see among the captives a beautiful woman, and have a desire for her and would take her as a wife for yourself, ¹² then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails. ¹³ “She shall also remove the clothes of her captivity and shall remain in your house, and mourn her father and mother a full month; and after that you may go in to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife. ¹⁴ “It shall be, if you are not pleased with her, then you shall let her go wherever she wishes; but you shall certainly not sell her for money, you shall not mistreat her, because you have humbled her.

Psalms 105:12–15 When they were only a few men in number, Very few, and strangers in it. ¹³ And they wandered about from nation to nation, From one kingdom to another people. ¹⁴ He permitted no man to oppress them, And He reproved kings for their sakes: ¹⁵ “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.”

Romans 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake,

Romans 4:2–3 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 CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Romans 4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Romans 4:11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

Romans 4:22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Romans 15:4–6 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:6–8 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.”

Galatians 3:27–29 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.

James 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.

Hebrews 11:15–16 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.