

**Abram Believed and It Was  
Counted to Him for Righteousness**

Gn 15 <sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. <sup>2</sup> And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. <sup>4</sup> And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. <sup>5</sup> And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. <sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. [KJV]

\* **Vs 5-6** are one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ texts of Scripture.

Gal 3 <sup>6</sup> Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” <sup>7</sup> Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. ... <sup>16</sup> Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your seed,” who is Christ. ... <sup>26</sup> [Y]ou are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ... <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Rm 4 <sup>1</sup> What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found ... ? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ... <sup>9</sup> Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. <sup>10</sup> How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. <sup>11</sup> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also ... <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith ... <sup>16</sup> Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

James 2 <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ... <sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

\* **The NT** authors refer to Abraham as if he really understood the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and they repeatedly point to our text in Gn 15.

\* **Modern** biblical scholars typically say that Abram only understood and believed that he would have innumerable \_\_\_\_\_ plus the land of Canaan.

\* **Gn 15.6** is the only place in Gn where we are given a direct window on the inner state of Abram’s \_\_\_\_\_ and the divine \_\_\_\_\_ of God in response.

\* **Did God** communicate, and did Abram believe, actual gospel content in Gn 15.5-6? I believe the answer is \_\_\_\_\_.

\* **Whatever** content God is communicating to Abram is conveyed by means of the \_\_\_\_\_.

\* The first indicator that God is not simply conveying the countless number of Abram’s future descendants is the Hebrew word translated “\_\_\_\_\_” in Gn 13 & 15.

Gn 13 <sup>16</sup> “I will make your seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number [manah] the dust of the earth, then your seed also could be numbered [manah].”

Gn 15 <sup>5</sup> “Look now toward heaven, and tell [saphar] the stars, if thou be able to number [saphar] them”: and he said unto him, “So shall thy seed be.”

Ps 48 <sup>12</sup> Walk about Zion, and go all around her. Count [saphar] her towers; <sup>13</sup> Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her palaces; That you may tell [saphar] it to the generation following.

Ps 56 <sup>8</sup> You number [saphar] my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

\* **Is there** any Scripture that tells us straight out that God imbedded gospel content in the stars? \_\_\_\_\_.

Rm 10 <sup>9</sup> [I]f you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation ... <sup>14</sup> How then shall they ... believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are

sent? ... <sup>18</sup> But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

*Psalm 19 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare [saphar] the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup> Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, <sup>5</sup> which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. <sup>6</sup> Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

– What is the "tabernacle for the sun"?

*Job 9<sup>9</sup> He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades ... 38<sup>32</sup> Can you bring out Mazzaroth [the Zodiac] in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?*

*Isa 40<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name*

– For further reading, see *The Witness of the Stars* by E.W. Bullinger.

– The names of the Zodiac's twelve constellations are the same in all ancient civilizations, in spite of the fact that none of the constellations \_\_\_\_\_ like their names.

\* **Big picture**, the story God imbedded in the constellations on the sun's path is the story of the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ — two of the prominent pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 3.28-31; Lk 11.20-22; Judges 16).

*Ps 19<sup>4</sup> Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, <sup>5</sup> which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strongman to run its race.*

\* **Note three** basic, recurring elements:

1) Miraculous \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ victory.

*Hb 11<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," <sup>19</sup> concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

\* **What should** you do with this as a believer?

*Acts 17<sup>11</sup> [The Bereans] were more noble-minded ... in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

\* **How does** this understanding of Gn 15.5-6 help us as believers?