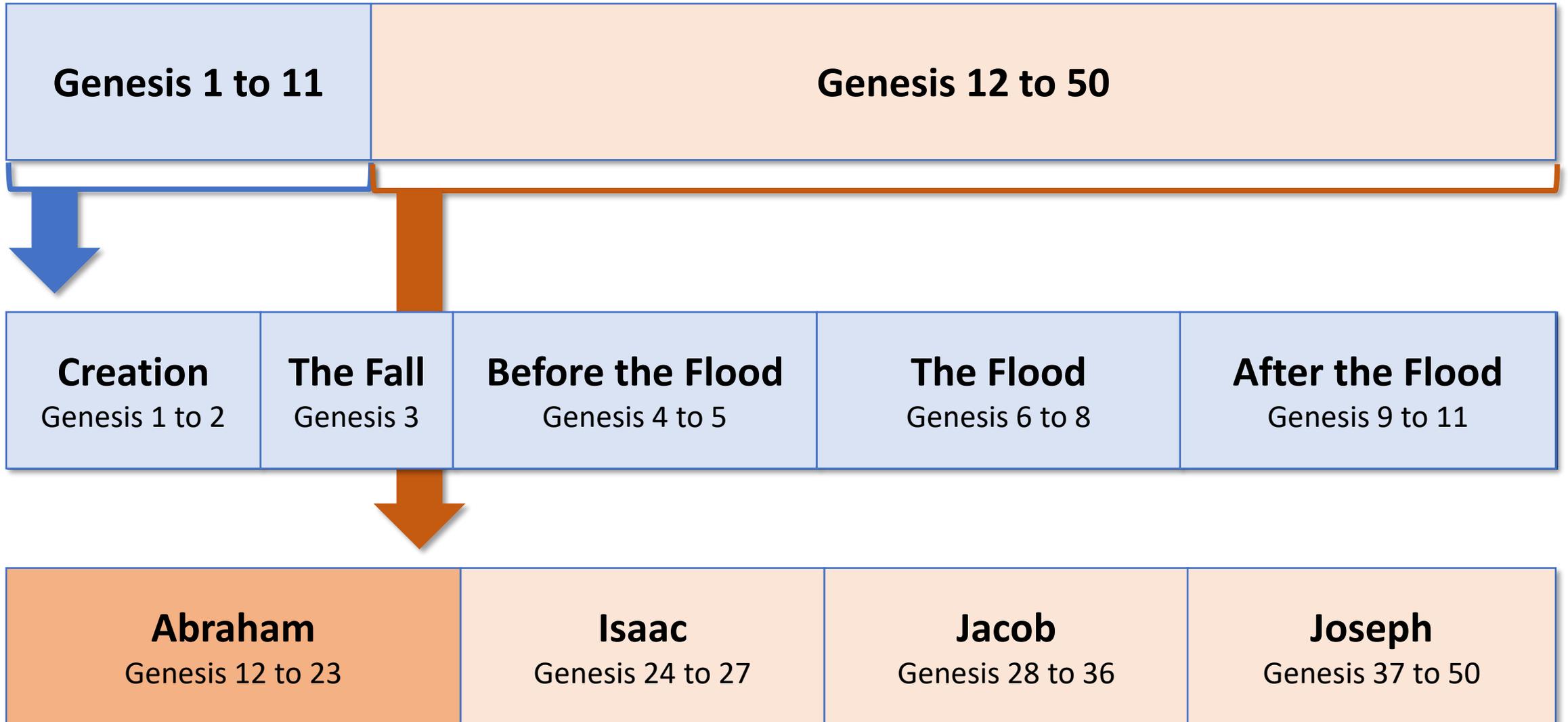


Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

9. The faith of Abraham

An outline of the Book of Genesis *



* Approximate chapter divisions only

Abram's faith after rescuing Lot...

The attack on the
four kings from the east.

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 15:1)

From the kings'
likely revenge

You have
lost nothing

The promise of God

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?”

Abram's trusted
personal attendant

And Abram said,

“Behold, **You have given me no offspring**,
and a member of my household will be my heir.”

(Genesis 15:2-3)

The promise of God

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.”

(Genesis 15:4)

“he who comes
from your own body”

The promise of God

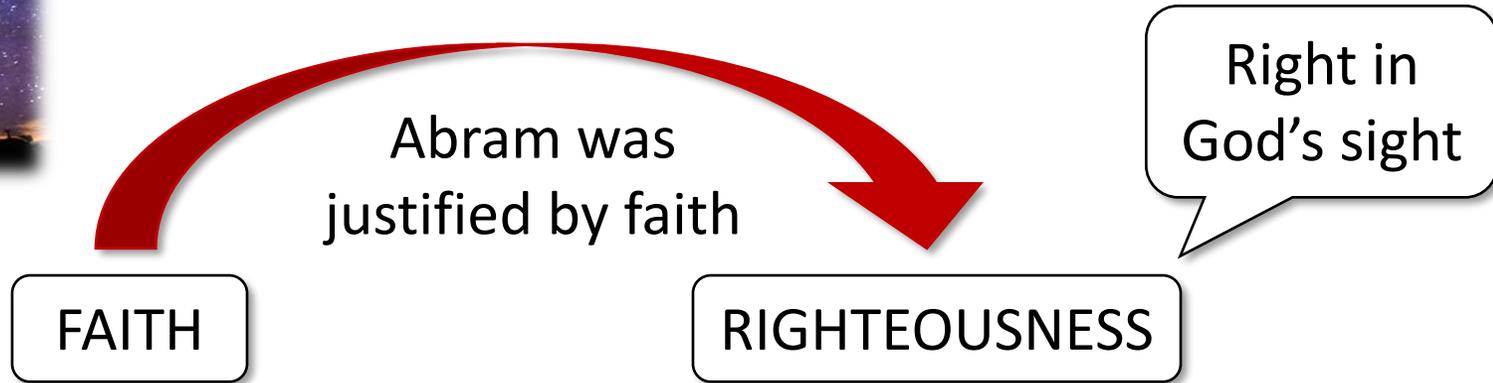
And He brought him outside and said,
“Look toward heaven, and number the stars,
if you are able to number them.”

Then He said to him,
“So shall your offspring be.”

**And he believed the LORD,
and He counted it to him as righteousness.**

(Genesis 15:5-6)

The promise of God



And he believed the LORD,
and He counted it to him as righteousness.

Counted as righteous,
not **made** righteous



The promise of God

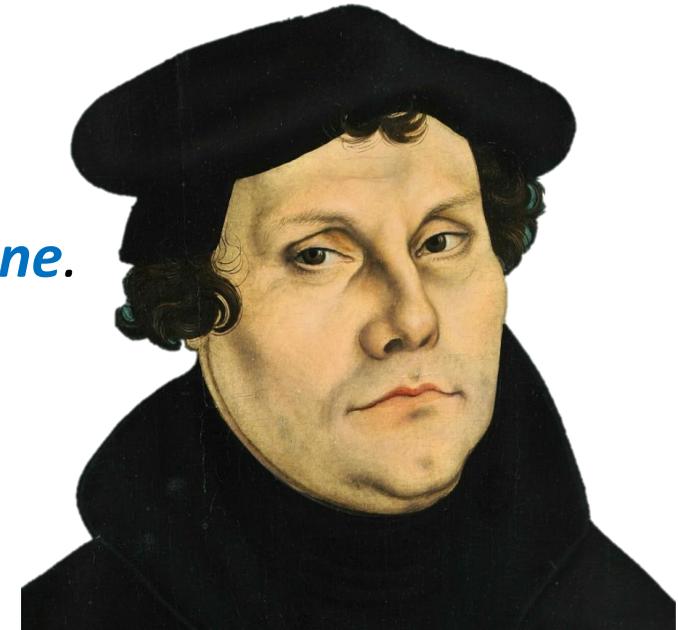
And he believed the LORD,
and He counted it to him
as righteousness.

Martin Luther:

This text is the very voice of the Gospel.

*For the Law says, 'Do this,'
and it is never done.*

*But faith says, 'Believe in this,'
and immediately everything is done.*



The promise of God

The wages of sin is death,
but
the free gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)

Romans 4:4-5

To **the one who works**,
his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

And to **the one who does not work**
but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, **!!!**
his faith is counted as righteousness...

Counted as righteous,
not **made** righteous

The promises of God

Question:

What was Abram promised?

Answer:

"So shall your offspring be."

Question:

What are we promised?

Answer:

"Eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."



Different promises

BUT

FAITH is always IN GOD

The promise of God

*“And he believed the LORD,
and He counted it to him as righteousness.”*

(Genesis 15:6)

But the words *“it was counted to him”*
were not written for his sake alone,
but for ours also.

Faith in God

It will be counted to us who believe in Him

who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,
who was delivered up for our trespasses
and raised for our justification.

(Romans 4:23-25)

He was crucified
because of our sins

He was raised so that
we could be justified

The promise of God

Faith in God

MEANS

Faith in
the goodness and
the faithfulness of God

Abram's question...?

*“And he believed the LORD,
and He counted it to him as righteousness.”*

(Genesis 15:6)

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.”

But he said,

**“O Lord GOD, how am I to know
that I shall possess it?”**

(Genesis 15:7-8)

How am I to know...?

He said to him,

*“Bring me **a heifer** three years old,
a female goat three years old,
a ram three years old,
a turtledove, and **a young pigeon**.”*

And he brought Him all these,
cut them in half, and laid each half
over against the other.

But he did not cut the birds in half.

(Genesis 15:9-10)



How am I to know...?

Then the LORD said to Abram,
“Know for certain that your offspring
will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs...
and **they will be afflicted for 400 years.**

Israel in Egypt

The exodus...

But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve...
As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace...
And they shall come back here in the 4th generation,
for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

(Genesis 15:13-16)

Judgment on
the Canaanites

How am I to know...?

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

A symbol of
God's presence

On that day **the LORD made a covenant** with Abram, saying,

“To your offspring I give this land...”

(See Genesis 15:17-21)



On that day
the LORD made a covenant...

How am I to know...?



On that day
the LORD made a covenant...

How am I to know...?



Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

Abram **believed** the LORD,
and He counted it to him
as **righteousness**.

How am I
to know...?

On that day
the LORD
made a **covenant**.