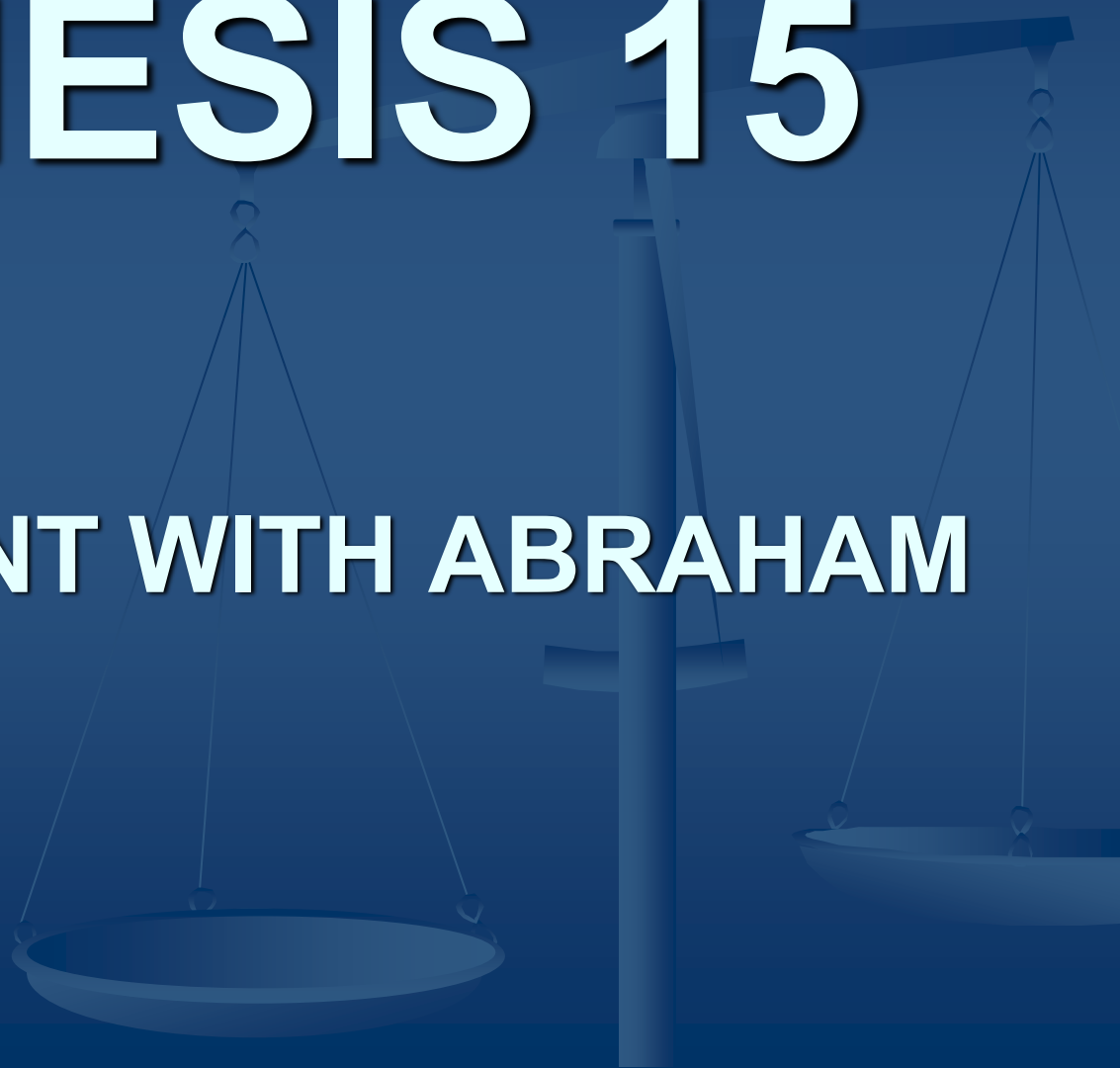


# GENESIS 15

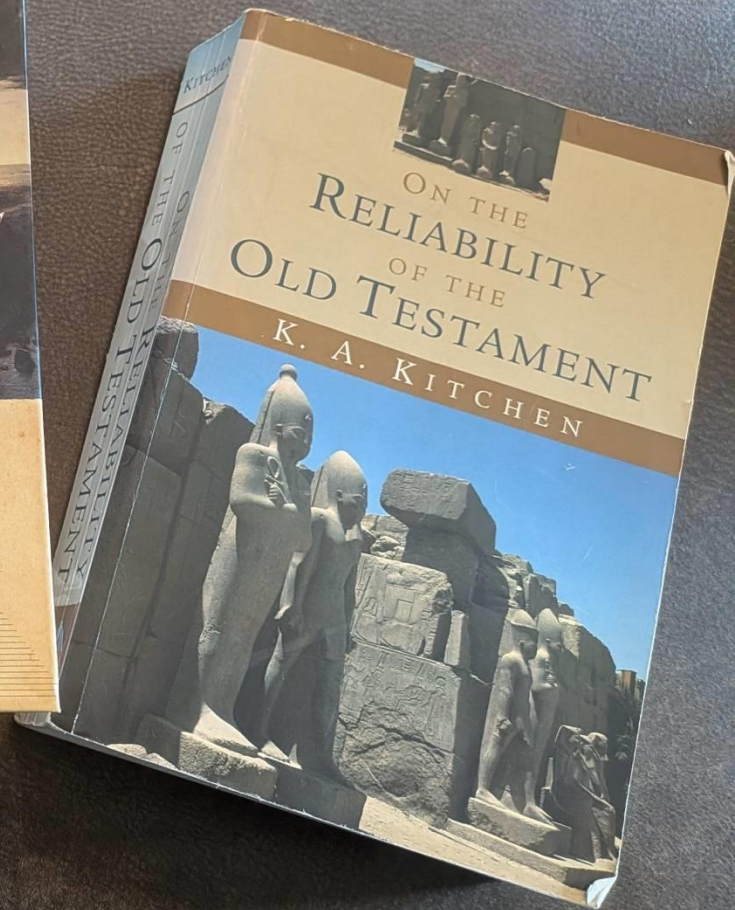
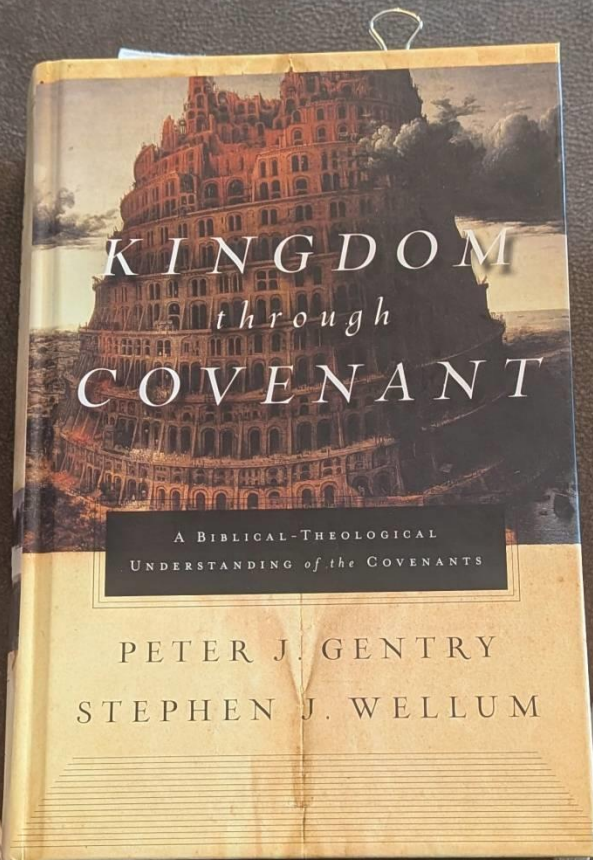
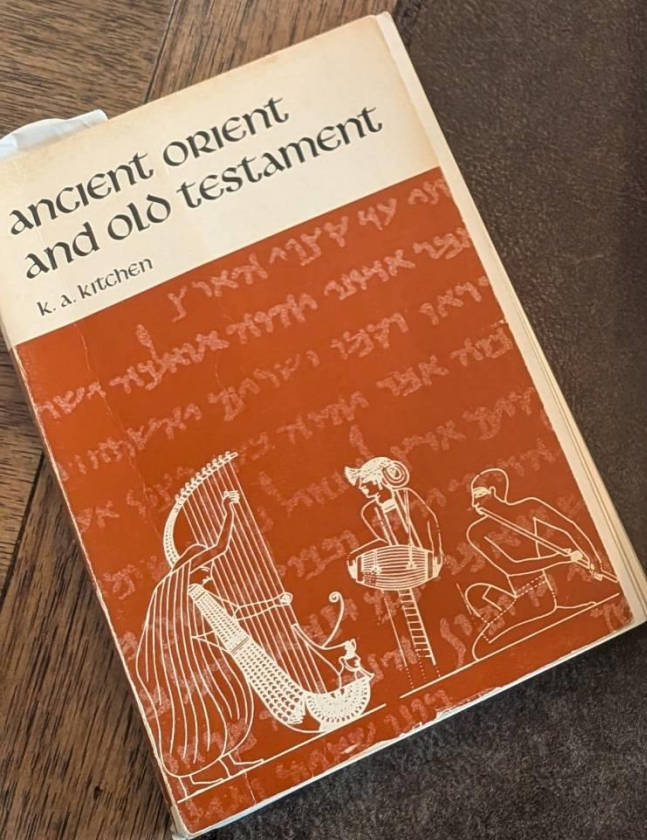
A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM



# Purpose of this Course Section

To glorify God in equipping our people at FBC to better understand and learn from the Genesis text involving Abram as chapter 15 fits into the overall Abrahamic narrative and the broader metanarrative of Scripture as a whole. We will cover Genesis 15:1-21, including Abram's interaction with God in the ongoing fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant initiated by Him in chapter 12. Specifically, we seek to understand how God committed to bless Abram with a multitude of descendants and to a land promised to him indefinitely and how the detailed Ancient Near Eastern ceremony of this covenant unfolded.







INTERNATIONAL VERSION

# THE NEW AMERICAN COMMENTARY



An Exegetical and Theological  
Exposition of Holy Scripture

GENESIS 11:27-50:26  
VOL. 1B

Kenneth A. Mathews

## ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN TEXTS

*Relating to the Old Testament*

EDITED BY  
JAMES B. PRITCHARD

*Third Edition with Supplement*

PRINCETON - NEW  
PRINCETON UNIV  
196

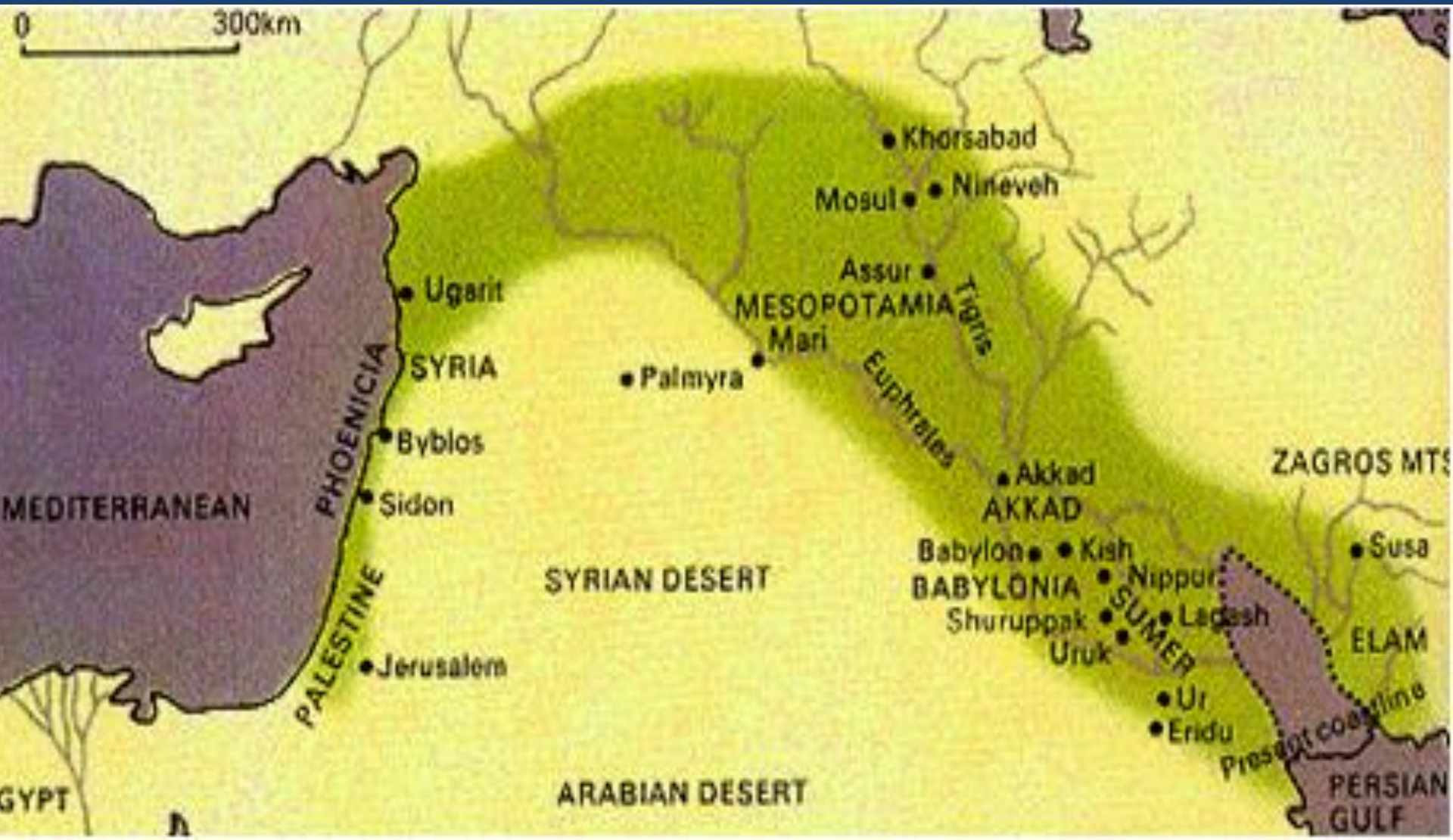
# GENESIS

A COMMENTARY

BRUCE K. WALTKE  
WITH CATHI J. FREDRICKS



# FERTILE CRESENT







Türkiye

Syria

Iraq

Lebanon

Israel

Cyprus

Kuwait

Google Maps

King Salman  
bin Abdulaziz  
Royal Reserve

Imam Turki  
bin Abdullah  
Royal Reserve  
محمية الإمام  
توركي بن عبد الله

Hafr Al Batin

Aksaray

Malatya

Muş

Tatvan

Van

Tabriz

Maraghen

Rasht

Diyarbakır

Batman

Kahramanmaraş

Şanlıurfa

Mardin

Zakho

Duhok

Mahabad

Antalya

Alanya

Adana

Gaziantep

İskenderun

Mosul

Erbil

Sulaymaniyah

Sanandaj

Hamedan

Bonujerd

Khorramabad

Baghdad

Karbala

Kut

Najaf

Dezful

Nazareth

Tel Aviv-Yafo

Jerusalem

Jordan

Arar

Dumat  
al-Jandal

Sakaka

Cairo

Aqaba

Tabuk







# TELL EL-MUQAYYAR (UR OF THE CHALDEES)



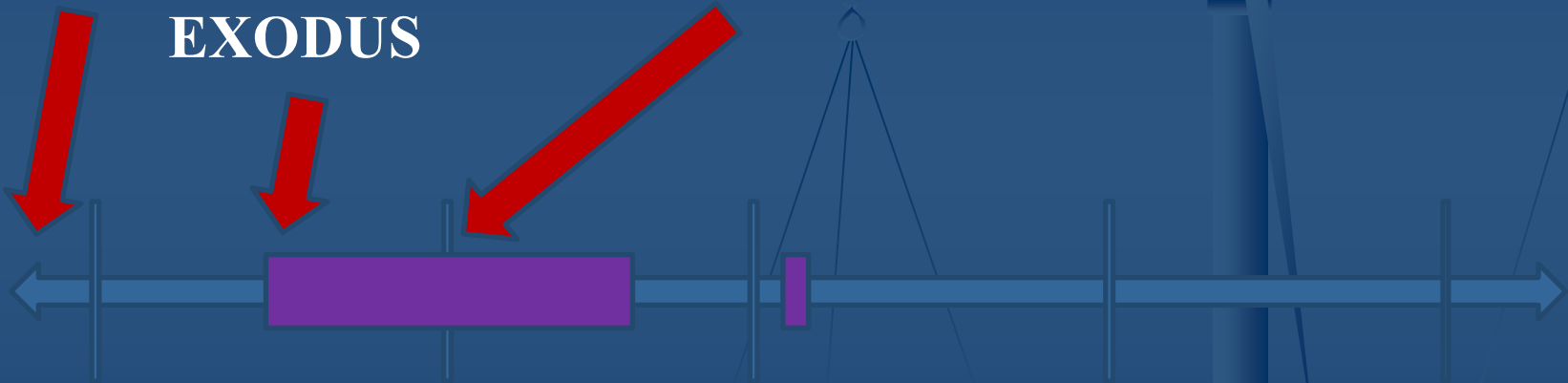


# BIBLICAL TIMELINE

ABRAHAM

DAVID/SOLOMON

EXODUS



2000

1000

0

1000

2000



| Archaeological Periods  | Sometimes known as          | Approx. Period |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Islamic                 |                             | AD 636 –       |
| Byzantine               |                             | AD 324 – 636   |
| Roman III               |                             | AD 180 – 324   |
| Roman II                |                             | AD 70 – 180    |
| Roman I                 | Herodian                    | 63 BC – AD 70  |
| Hellenistic II          | Hasmonaeen/Maccabean        | 152 – 63 BC    |
| Hellenistic I           | Ptolemaic/Seleucid          | 330 – 152 BC   |
| Babylonian/Persian      | Late Iron (= LI)/Persian    | 587 – 330 BC   |
| Iron Age III b          |                             | 720 – 587 BC   |
| Iron Age III a          |                             | 800 – 720 BC   |
| Iron Age II b           | Middle Iron (= MI)          | 900 – 800 BC   |
| Iron Age II a           |                             | 1000 – 900 BC  |
| Iron Age I b            |                             | 1150 – 1000 BC |
| Iron Age (= IA) I a     | Early Iron/Israelite (= EI) | 1200 – 1150 BC |
| Late Bronze II b        |                             | 1300 – 1200 BC |
| Late Bronze II a        |                             | 1400 – 1300 BC |
| Late Bronze (= LBA) I   | (Late Canaanite (= LC))     | 1550 – 1400 BC |
| Middle Bronze II c      |                             | 1600 – 1550 BC |
| Middle Bronze II b      |                             | 1750 – 1600 BC |
| Middle Bronze II a      | (Middle Canaanite (= MC))   | 1950 – 1750 BC |
| Middle Bronze (= MBA) I | Early – Middle Bronze Age   | 2200 – 1950 BC |
| Early Bronze IV         | Early Bronze Age III b      | 2350 – 2200 BC |
| Early Bronze III        | (Early Canaanite III)       | 2650 – 2350 BC |
| Early Bronze II         | (Early Canaanite II)        | 2850 – 2650 BC |
| Early Bronze (= EBA) I  | (Early Canaanite (= EC) I)  | 3150 – 2850 BC |

Chalcolithic





# COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12

THE PROMISE (i.e., Engagement)



GENESIS 15

CEREMONY (i.e., Wedding)



GENESIS 17

SIGN & CONFIRMATION





# NUZI TABLETS

(15<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c BC)

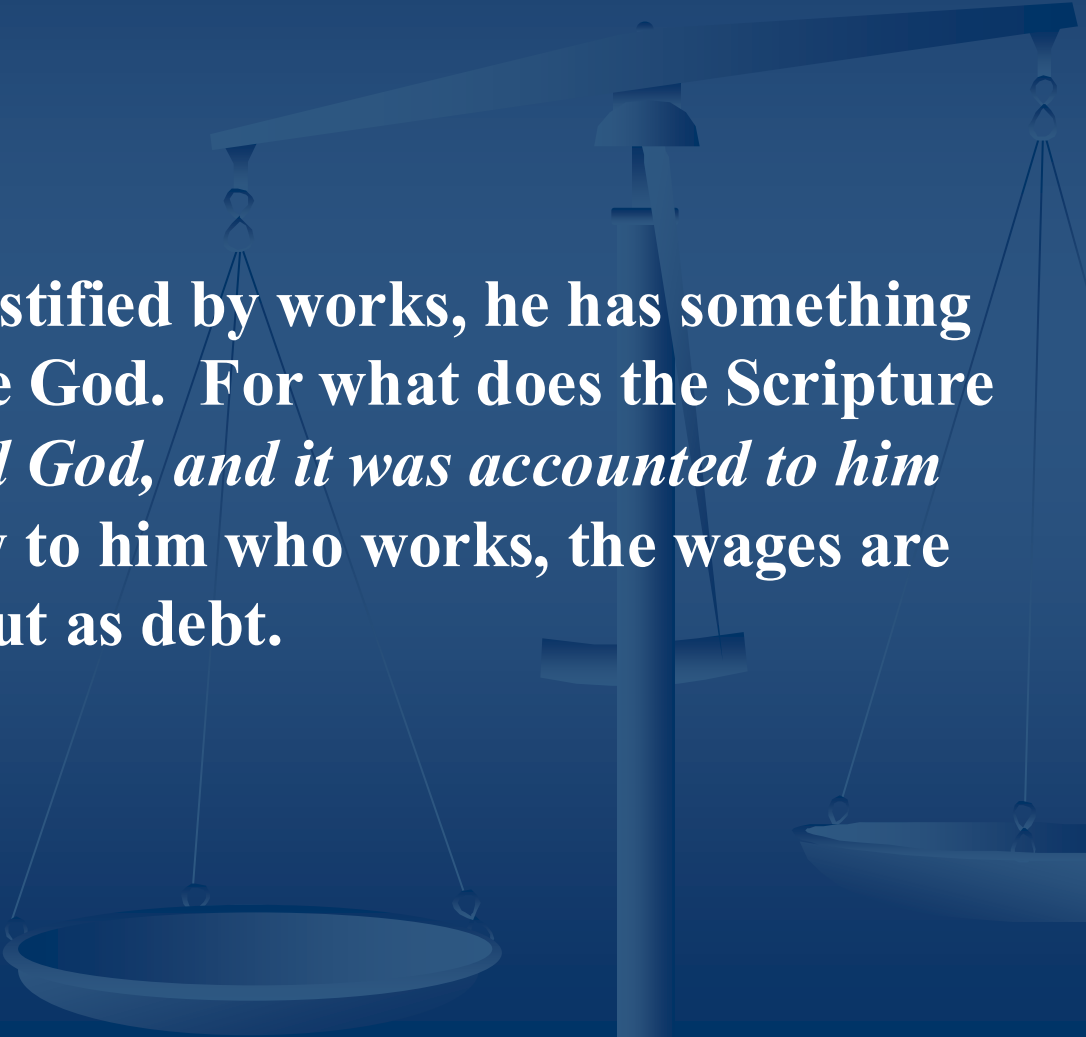




# Paul References Abraham

## (Romans 4)

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? *Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.* Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.





# CONCEPT OF A COVENANT

Hb *Berith* = 'cutting' a covenant

Gk *Diatheke* = covenant or  
contract

Vulgate used Latin *Testamentum*



# Splitting the Animals





# Mari Letter

(Example from c. 18<sup>th</sup> c BC)

“The tablet of Ibal-Adad from Aslakka reached me and 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 Hanu and Idamaras”

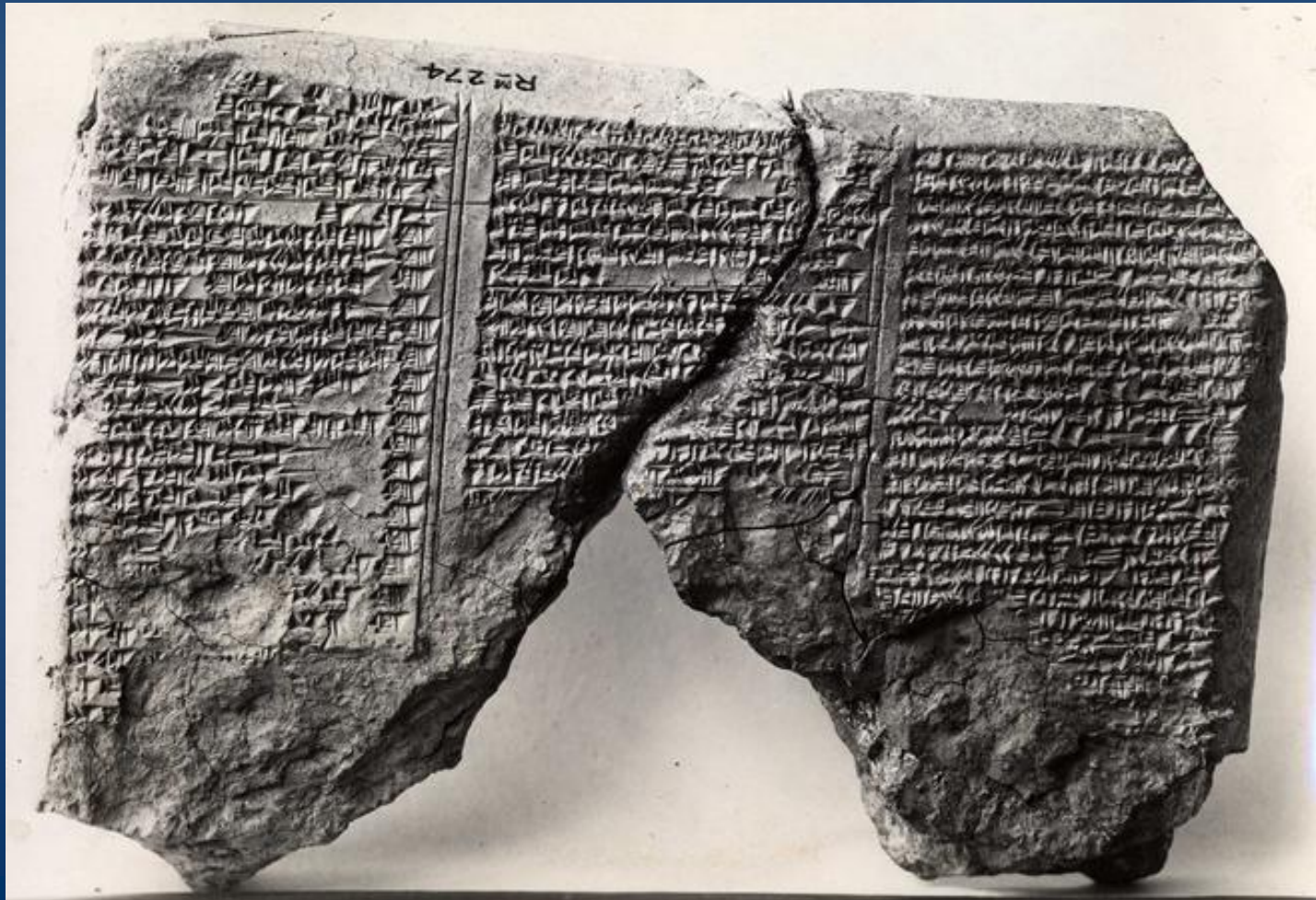
## Treaty Between Ktk and Arpad

(c. 750 BC)

“A Treaty of Barga’yah, king of Ktk, with Matti’el, the son of Attarsamak, king of [Arpad; a t]reaty of the sons .... If Matti’el, the son of Attarsamak, kin[g of Arpad] is false to [to Barga’yah and to] his son and to his offspring, his kingdom shall be a kingdom of sand ... fire ... hail[stones] .... Worm eat .... [As] this calf is cut up, Thus Matti’el and his nobles shall be cut up ...”



# Treaty Between Ashur-Nirari V of Assyria and Mati'ilu of Apad (Cuneiform Tablet c. 754 BC)





# Treaty Between Ashur-Nirari V of Assyria and Mati'ilu of Apad

“This spring lamb has been brought from its fold not for sacrifice, not for a banquet, not for a purchase, not for (divination concerning) a sick man, not to be slaughtered for [...]: it has been brought to sanction the treaty between Ashurnirari and Mati'ilu. If Mati'ilu sins against (this) treaty made under oath by the gods, then, just as this spring lamb, brought from its fold, will not behold its fold again, alas, Mati'ilu, together with his sons, daughters, officials, and the people of his land (will be ousted) from his country, will not return to his country and not behold his country again. This head is not the head of a lamb, it is the head of Mati'ilu, it is the head of his sons, his officials, and the people of his land. If Mati'ilu sins against this treaty, so may, just as the head of this spring lamb is torn off, and its knuckle placed in its mouth, [...], the head of Mati'ilu be torn off, and his sons [...] ...”



# Four Hundred Year Prophecy

**“Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land [that] is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them *four hundred years*.”** Gen. 15:13b

**“But in the *fourth generation* they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”** Gen. 15:16

**“The sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was *four hundred and thirty years*.”** Exod. 12:40

**Note: See also Acts 7:6  
& Galatians 3:17**

**“for four hundred years”**

**“four hundred and thirty years later”**

# ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

**Unconditional Covenant**

**One-Way Covenant**

**A Promise**

**Initiated & Confirmed by God**





# Smoking Oven & Burning Torch





# PROMISED LAND

EUPHRATES

WADI EL ARISH





# Tribes (Genesis 15:19-21)

**Kenites**

**Kenezzites**

**Kadmonites**

**Hittites**

**Perizzites**

**Rephaim**

**Amorites**

**Canaanites**

**Girgashites**

**Jebusites**



# GENESIS 15

A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

