

Genesis 15:1-8 (NIV)

The Lord's Covenant With Abram

15 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,[a]

your very great reward.[b]”

2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit[c] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring[d] be.”

6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

7 He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

8 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

Genesis 16:1-4 (NIV)

Hagar and Ishmael

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

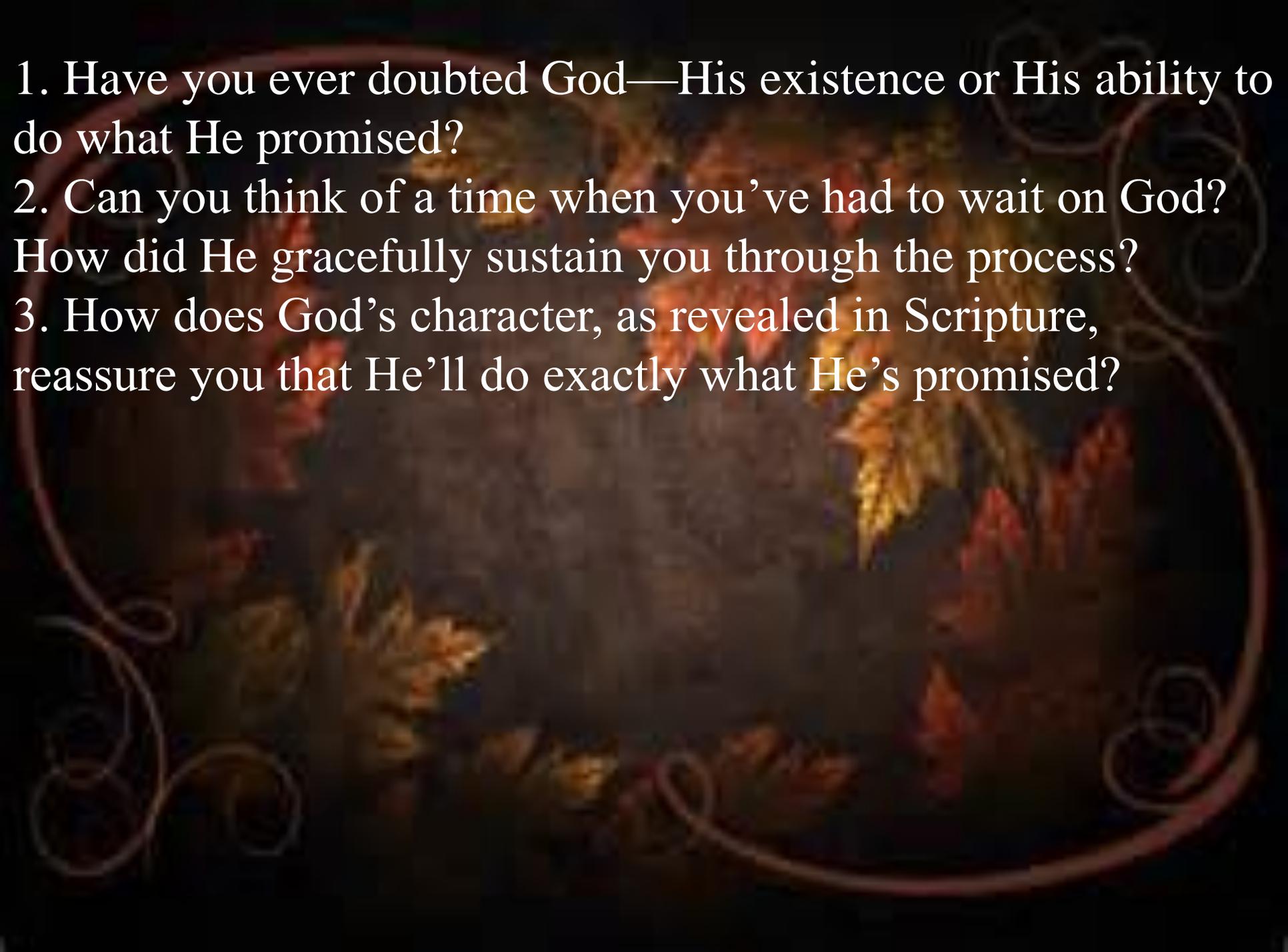
Abram agreed to what Sarai said. 3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.



Dealing with Uncertainty

Genesis 15:1-8; 16:1-4

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1. Have you ever doubted God—His existence or His ability to do what He promised?
 2. Can you think of a time when you've had to wait on God? How did He gracefully sustain you through the process?
 3. How does God's character, as revealed in Scripture, reassure you that He'll do exactly what He's promised?

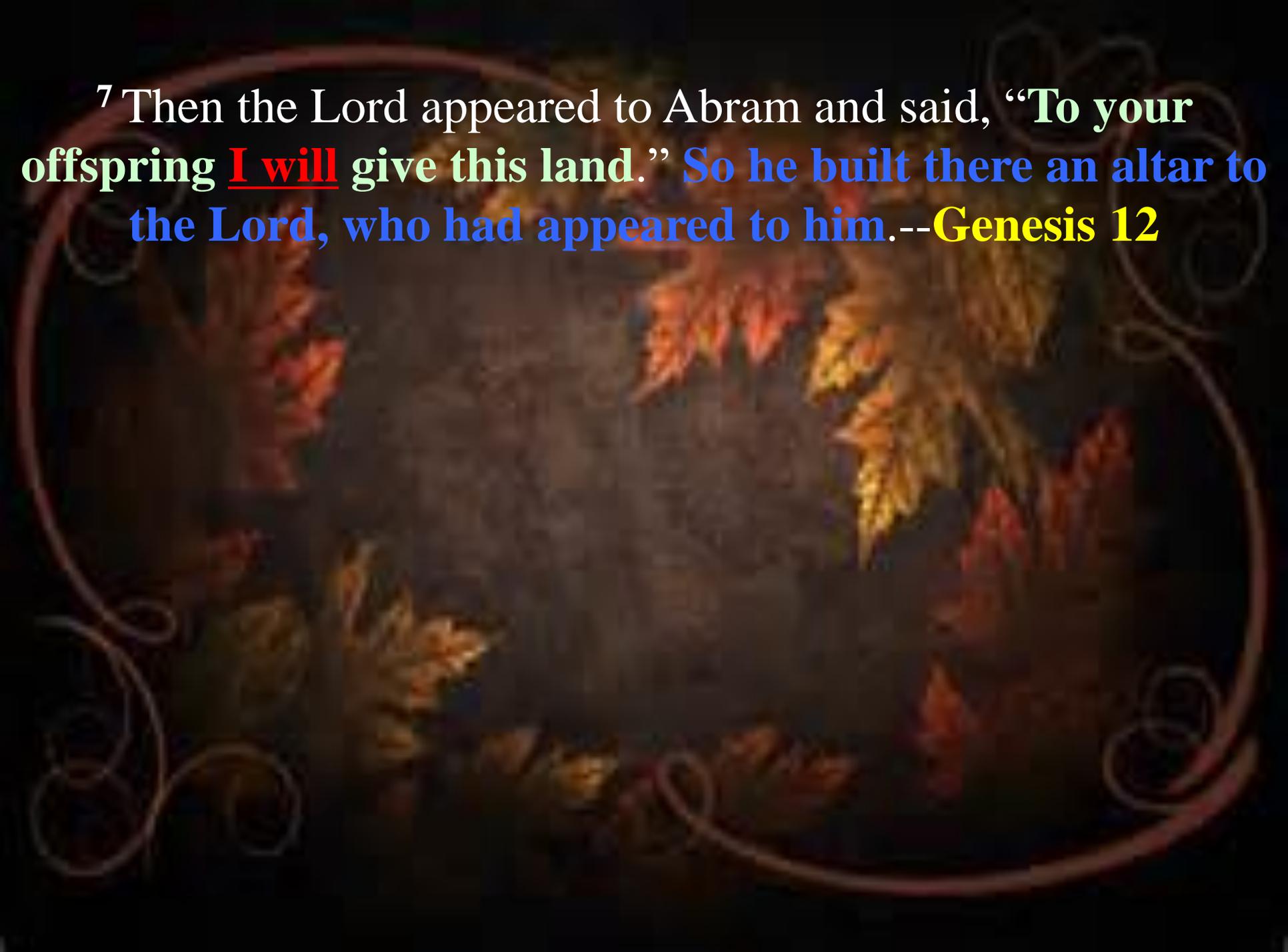


1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.--**Genesis 15**”



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?--**Genesis 15**”

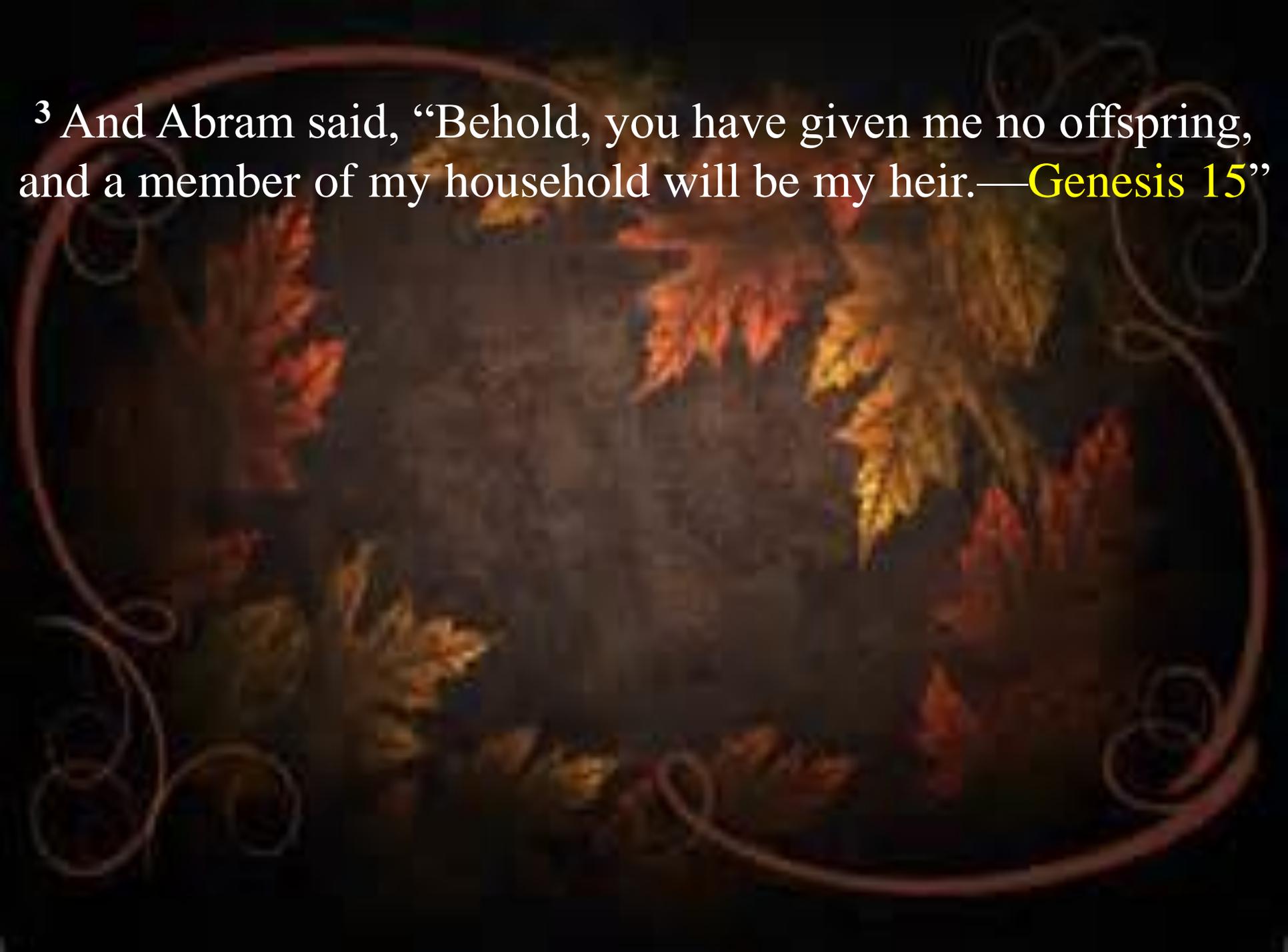
1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that **I will** show you. **2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.--Genesis 12”****

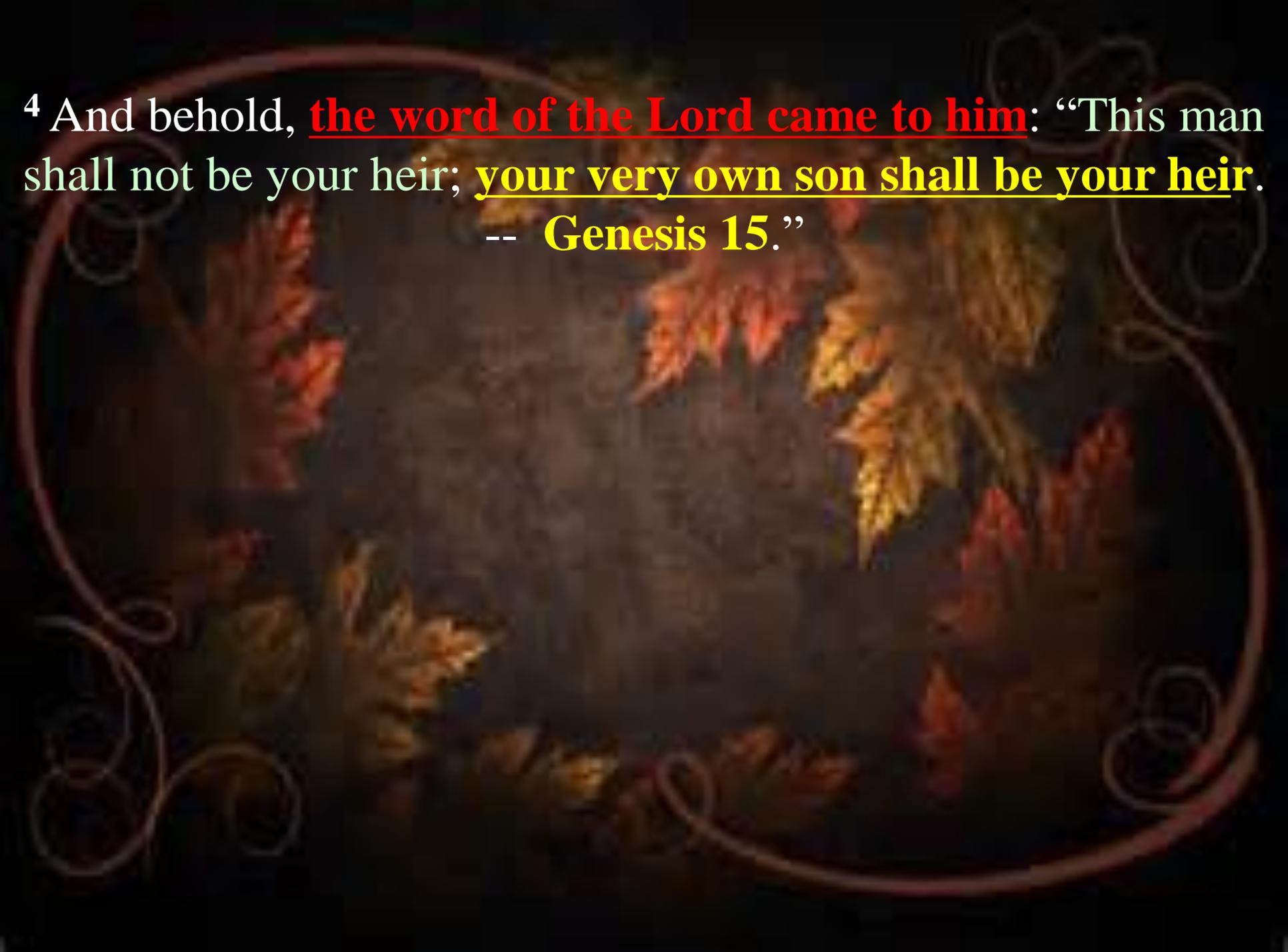


⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “**To your offspring I will give this land.**” **So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.--Genesis 12**

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “**Lift up your eyes** and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for **all the land that you see I will give to you** and **to your offspring forever.** ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”-- Genesis 13

³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.—**Genesis 15**”





⁴ 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.**”

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.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and **he counted it to him as righteousness.**

-- Genesis 15

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”

⁹ Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? **It was not after, but before he was circumcised.**—Romans 4

. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, **which came 430 years afterward**, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.—Galatians 3

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but **through the righteousness of faith.**—Romans 4

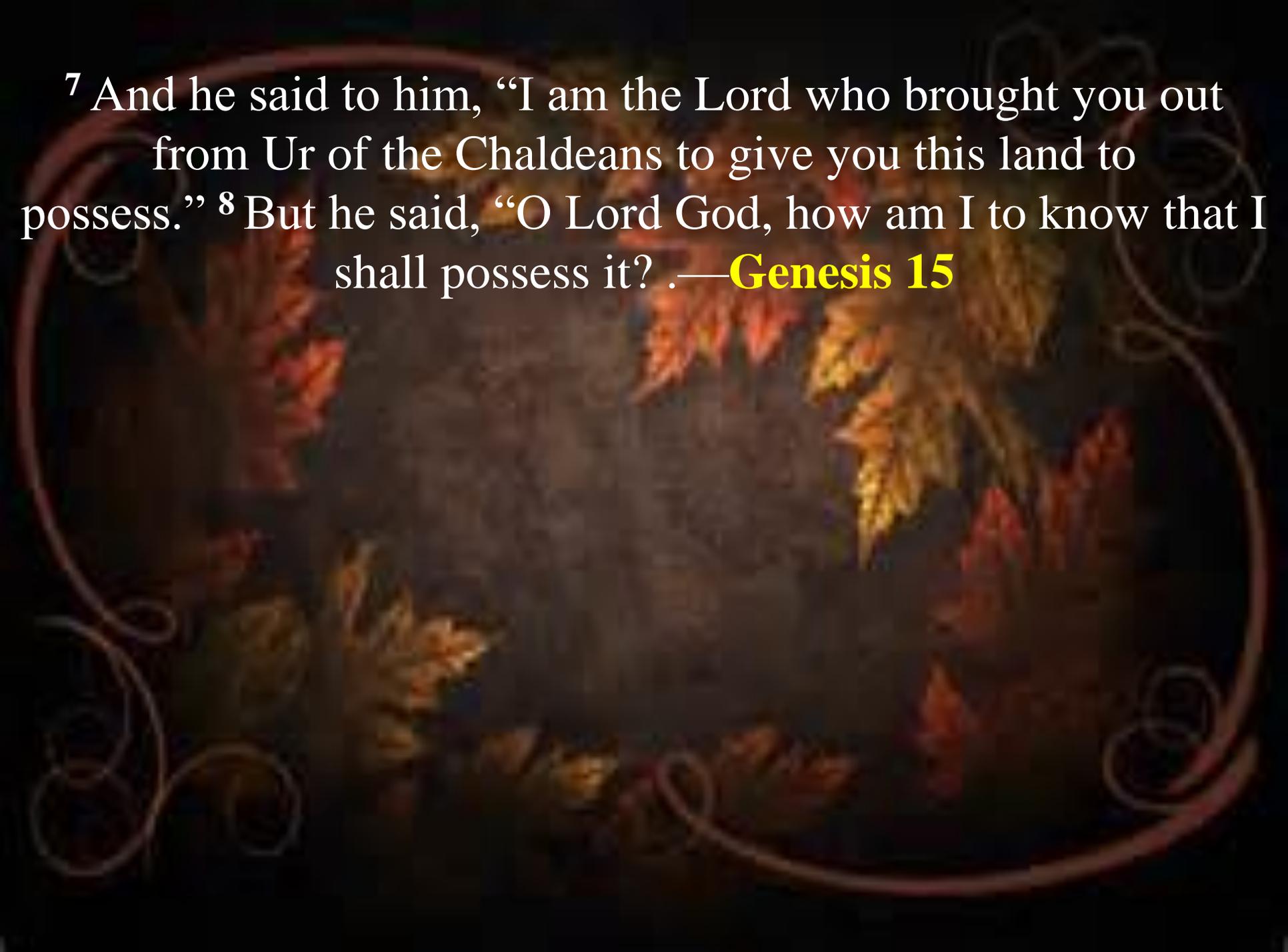


²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone,²⁴ **but for ours also**. It will be counted to us **who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,** ²⁵ **who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.**—Romans 4

¹⁶ “For **God so loved the world**, that he gave **his only Son**, that whoever **believes in him** should **not perish** but **have eternal life**. ¹⁷ For God **did not send his Son** into the **world to condemn the world**, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever **believes** in him **is not condemned**, but whoever **does not believe** **is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.—John 3

Therefore, since **we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice **in hope of the glory of God.**--

Romans 5



⁷ 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.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it? .—**Genesis 15**

CUTTING A COVENANT

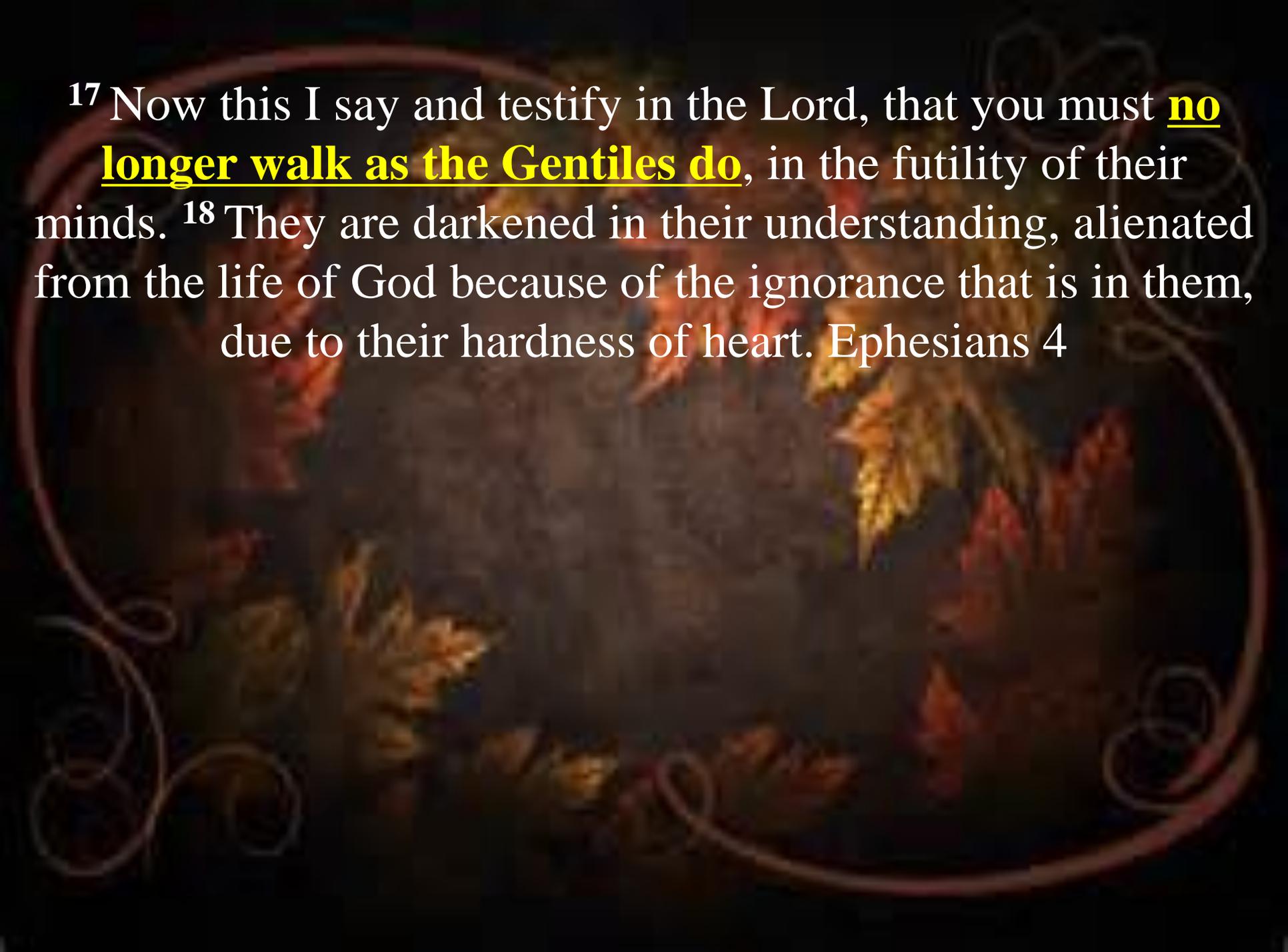
Genesis
15:17–19



Cultural Influence

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.—Genesis 16

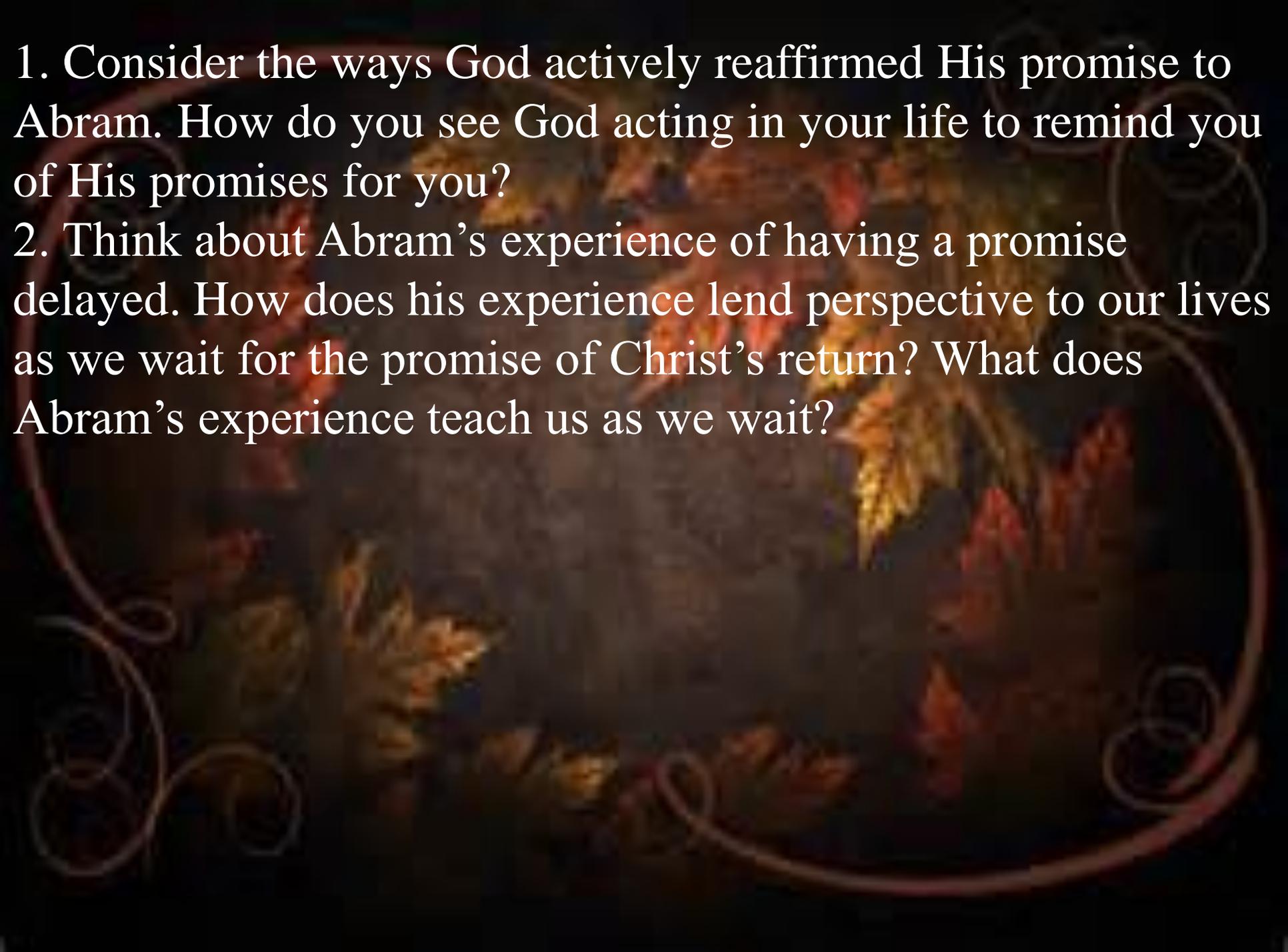
. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.



¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must **no longer walk as the Gentiles do**, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. Ephesians 4

²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.—

Ephesians 4

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1. Consider the ways God actively reaffirmed His promise to Abram. How do you see God acting in your life to remind you of His promises for you?
 2. Think about Abram's experience of having a promise delayed. How does his experience lend perspective to our lives as we wait for the promise of Christ's return? What does Abram's experience teach us as we wait?

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. -- 2 Peter 3:9

