

A desert landscape at night. The sky is a deep blue, filled with numerous stars and a prominent crescent moon. In the foreground, a simple tent made of light-colored fabric is pitched on the sand. The sand dunes are illuminated by a warm, golden light, creating a stark contrast with the dark night sky. The overall scene evokes a sense of solitude and journey.

Abraham

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH



The Two Big Promises

- Descendents
- Land







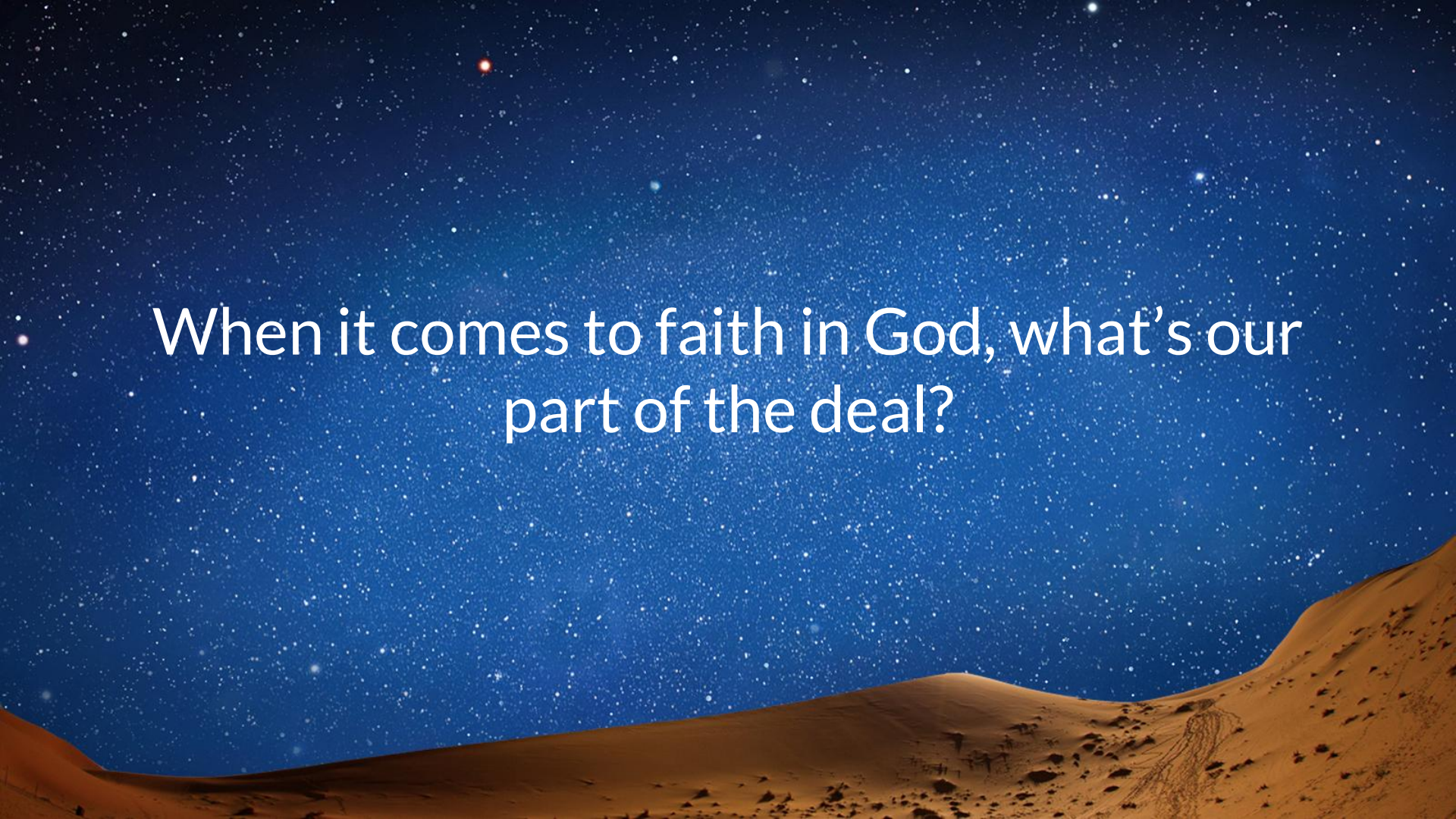


Abraham
THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

CIRCUMCISION EDITION



Genesis 17



When it comes to faith in God, what's our part of the deal?

Our part of the deal...

- 1) Hang on with patient, perseverant faith.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Our part of the deal...

- 1) Hang on with patient, perseverant faith.
- 2) Get initiated...and then follow through.



Initiation

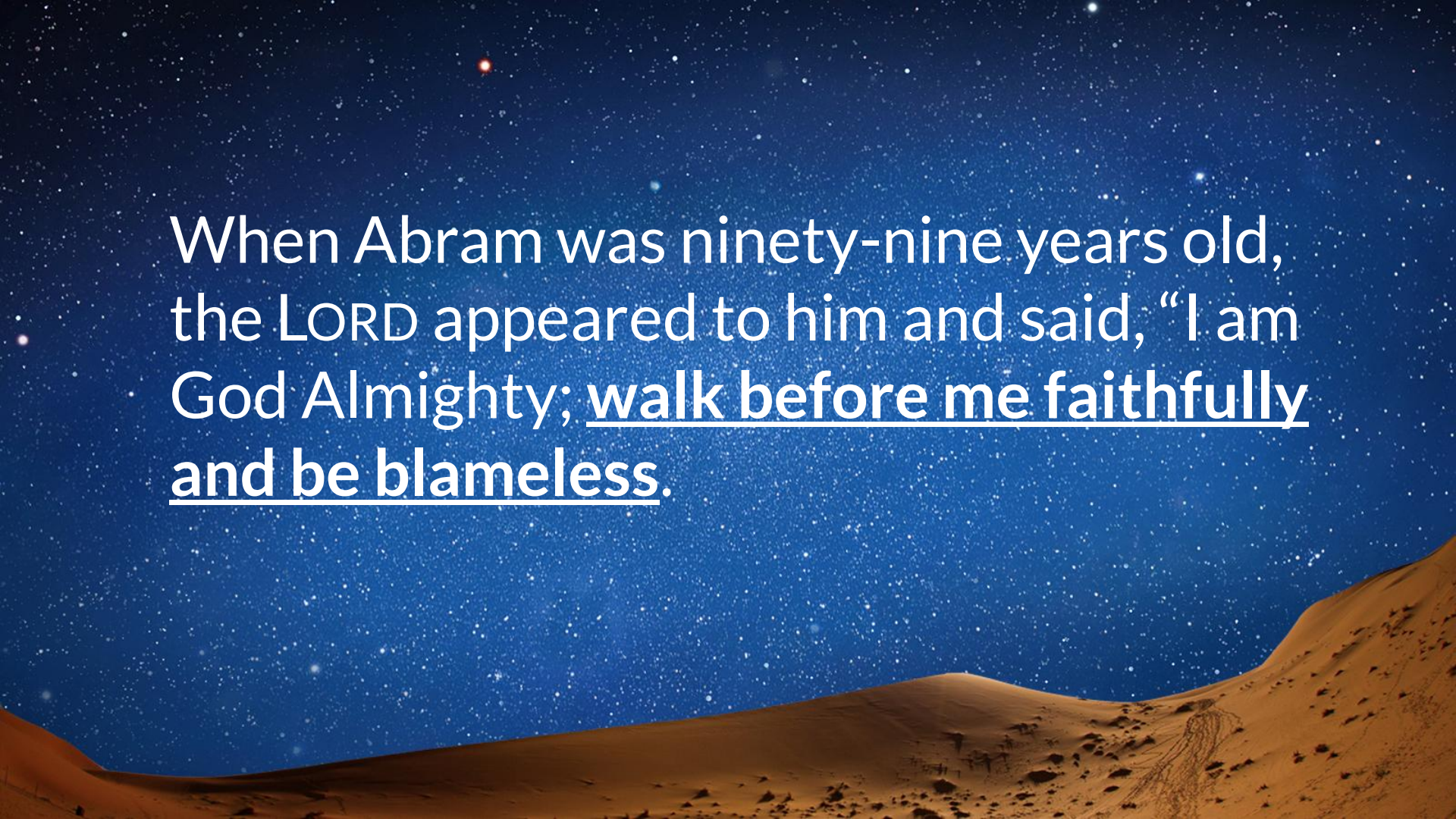
WE HAVE TO CUT
OFF WHAT!?



THE PEOPLE OF ABRAHAM ARE TOLD
OF THE COUENANT OF CIRCUMCISION.



circumcision



When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am
God Almighty; walk before me faithfully
and be blameless.”





circumcision

To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today.

Deut 10:14-15

Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.

Deut 10:16-20

The image features a deep blue, starry background. The stars are of various sizes and colors, including white, yellow, and red. The text "who cares?" is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

who cares?

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised
or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian,
slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Colossians 3:11

Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.





and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

Colossians 2:10-11

In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:11-12



BAPTISM

TAKE YOUR STEP

Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts.

1 Cor. 7:18-19

Circumcision, the surgical ritual that marks you as a Jew, is great if you live in accord with God's law. But if you don't, it's worse than not being circumcised. The reverse is also true: The uncircumcised who keep God's ways are as good as the circumcised—in fact, better. Better to keep God's law uncircumcised than break it circumcised. Don't you see: It's not the cut of a knife that makes a Jew. You become a Jew by who you are. It's the mark of God on your heart, not of a knife on your skin, that makes a Jew. And recognition comes from God, not legalistic critics.

Romans 2:25-29

Our part of the deal...

- 1) Hang on with patient, perseverant faith.
- 2) Get initiated...and then follow through.

A desert landscape at night. The sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous small, bright stars. A prominent crescent moon is visible in the upper right quadrant of the sky. In the foreground, a simple, dark-colored tent is pitched on the sand. The sand dunes are illuminated from the side, creating soft shadows and highlighting the texture of the sand. The overall scene is serene and evocative of a journey in a vast, open landscape.

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