

A scenic landscape featuring a stone path leading up a grassy, rocky hill under a clear blue sky. The path is made of large, flat stones and winds through the terrain. The hill is covered in green grass and scattered rocks. In the background, there are more hills and a clear sky.

ROMANS

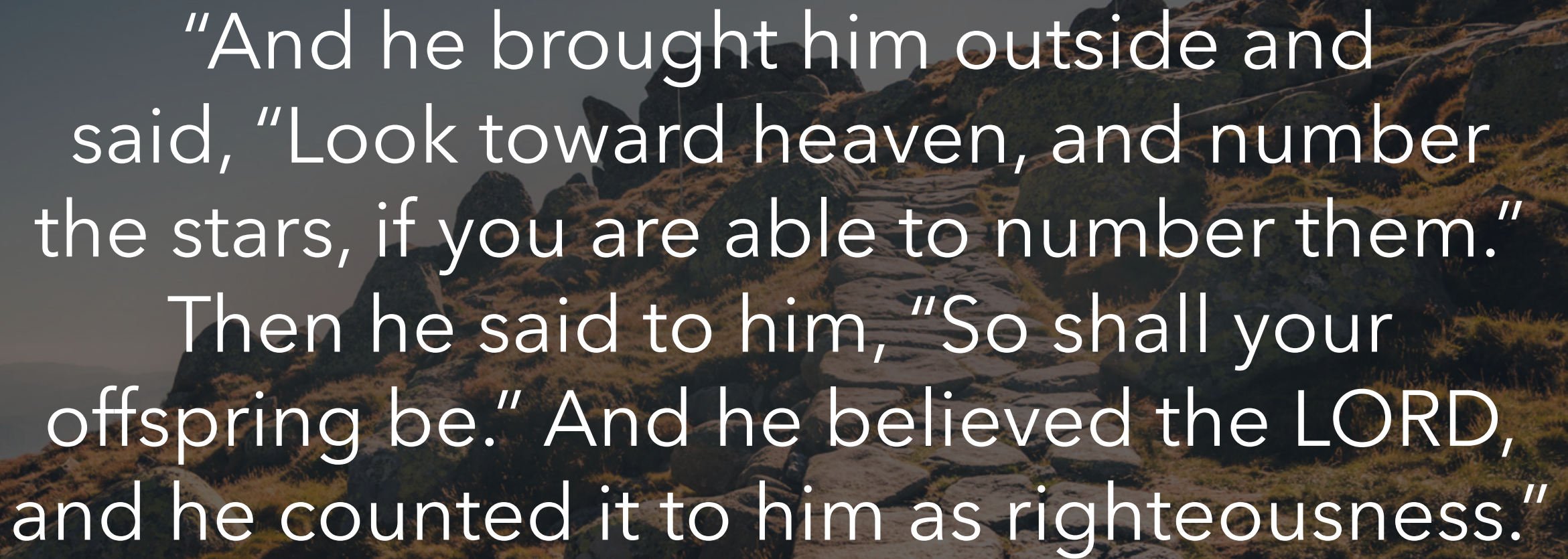
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

A scenic photograph of a rugged landscape. A path made of large, flat stones leads up a hillside covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass and scattered rocks. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

“What then shall we say was gained
by Abraham, our forefather according
to the flesh?”

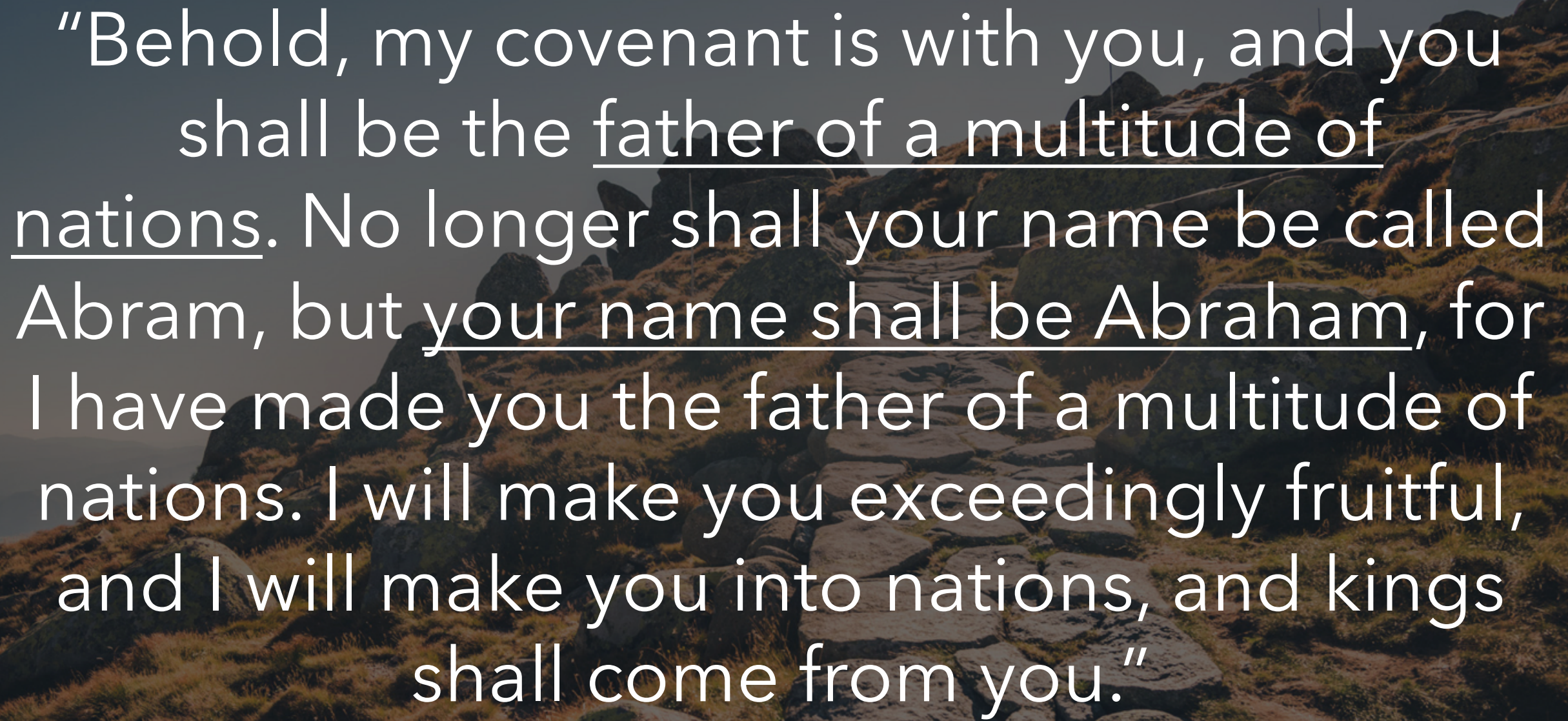
–Romans 4:1

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- A photograph of a stone path leading up a grassy hill with large rocks. The path is made of flat, grey stones and is surrounded by green grass and large, dark grey boulders. The hill rises towards the right, and the sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny.
- **Context Removes Confusion**
 - Context Reveals Richness

A photograph of a rugged, rocky mountain trail winding upwards. The path is composed of large, flat stones and is flanked by sparse, dry grass and small shrubs. In the background, more rocky peaks are visible under a clear sky. The overall tone is warm and slightly desaturated.

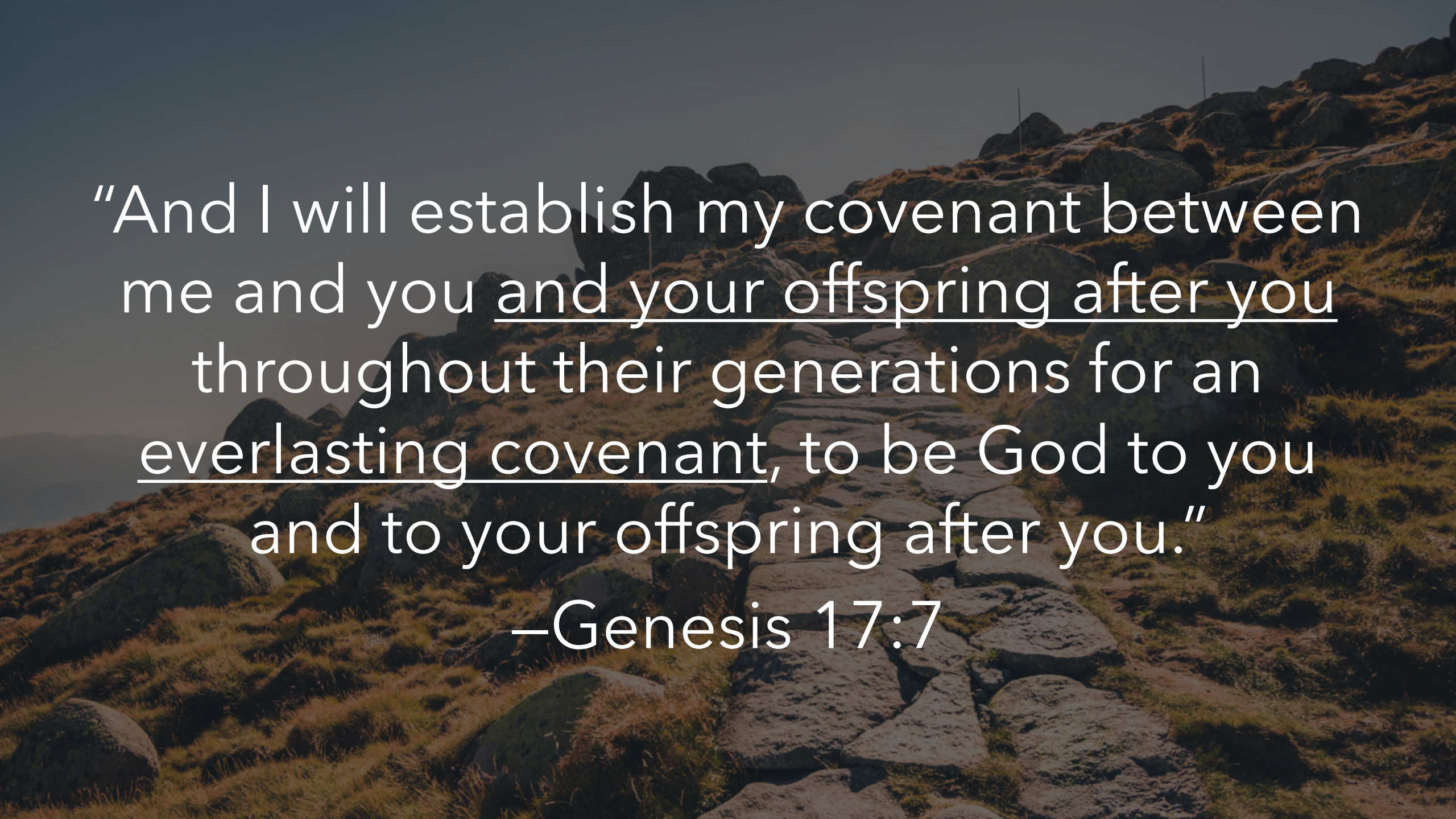
"And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness."

—Genesis 15:5-6



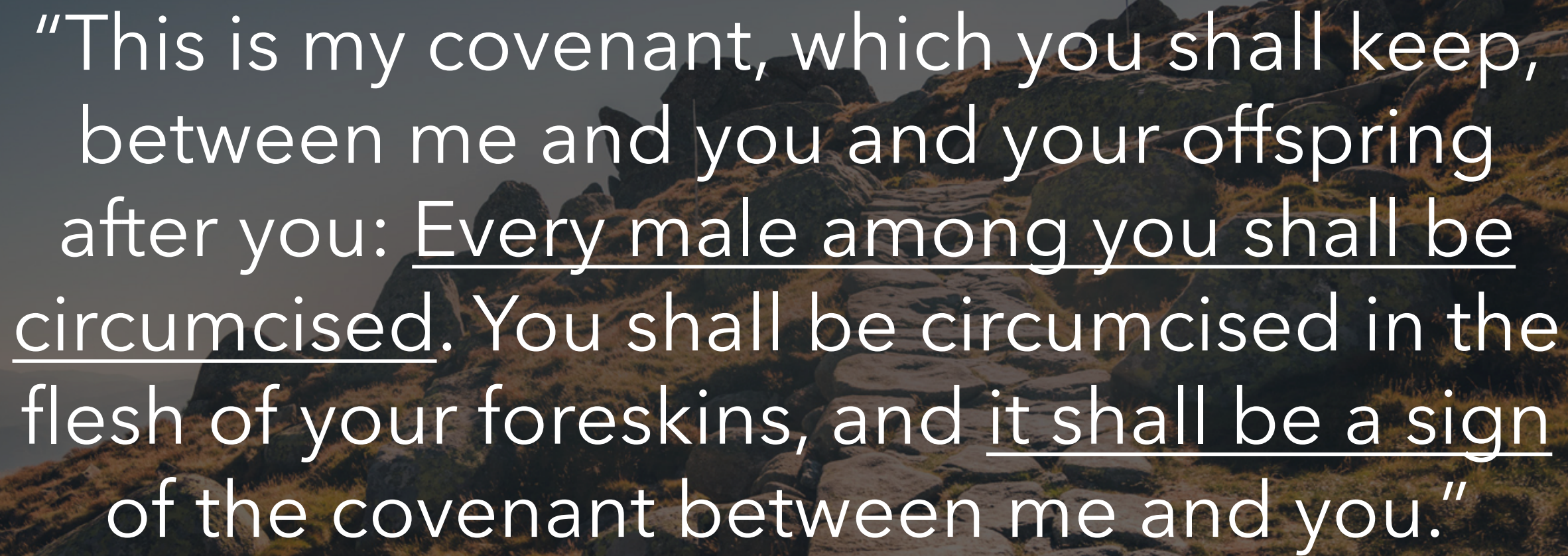
“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.”

—Genesis 17:4-6

A scenic background image of a rugged mountain landscape. A stone path leads up a hillside covered in low-lying green and brown vegetation. Large, dark grey rocks are scattered across the terrain. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

“And I will establish my covenant between
me and you and your offspring after you
throughout their generations for an
everlasting covenant, to be God to you
and to your offspring after you.”

—Genesis 17:7

A scenic background image of a rugged mountain landscape. A stone path leads up a hillside covered in dry grass and small shrubs. The sky is clear and blue.

“This is my covenant, which you shall keep,
between me and you and your offspring
after you: Every male among you shall be
circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the
flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign
of the covenant between me and you.”

—Genesis 17:10-11

A photograph of a rugged, rocky hillside with a stone path leading up it. The path is made of large, flat stones and is surrounded by dry, yellowish-brown grass and small shrubs. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Abraham → Isaac → Jacob/Israel →
Joseph → Egypt → 400 Years → Slavery →
Moses → Law

A scenic photograph of a stone path leading up a grassy hill. The path is made of large, flat stones and is surrounded by green grass and large, dark rocks. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

QUESTIONS PAUL ANTICIPATES

What was gained by Abraham according
to the Flesh? (Romans 4:1-8)

Nothing

A photograph of a stone path leading up a hillside. The path is made of large, flat stones and is surrounded by grass and rocks. The hillside is covered in green grass and large, dark rocks. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

QUESTIONS PAUL ANTICIPATES

Is this blessing of justification available only to the circumcised? (Romans 4:9-12)

No

QUESTIONS PAUL ANTICIPATES

Does the promise to Abraham and his offspring to be heirs of the world come through the law? (Romans 4:13-16)

No

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 - **Context Reveals Richness**

APPLICATION

- God is sovereign and just, and His plan and timing are perfect.
- Justification has always been, is now, and will always be by grace through faith alone.
- We must know the stumbling blocks of the people we are sharing the gospel with and anticipate their questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please be sure to sign in and print a name tag.
- You were sent an email at 6 a.m. today with your small group room number. If you didn't receive it, the Welcome Center volunteers have your room number.
- If you have not registered and have not arranged to be in a particular group, then stay in here and come to the front. Hil Bowman and Rob Heath will lead the Open Group that meets in here.
- If your group meets on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the West Tower, please use the skybridge to the 2nd floor.
- John Elmore will be speaking next week! Don't miss it!

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