



THE PROVISION OF GRACE

SCORECARD

DESCRIPTION		POINTS
01	QUIET TIME THIS MORNING	5
02	SHOWED LOVE TO MY FAMILY	5
03	HELPED SOMEONE GET TO CHURCH	5
04	PREPARED MY SERMON WELL TO PREACH TO THE CHURCH	10
SUBTOTAL		25
05	MAYBE.... BOASTED A LITTLE	-5
NETT		20

A blurred background of a green field with tall grass in the foreground and a rainbow in the distance.

All human effort is futile before God.

ROMANS 4:2-5

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

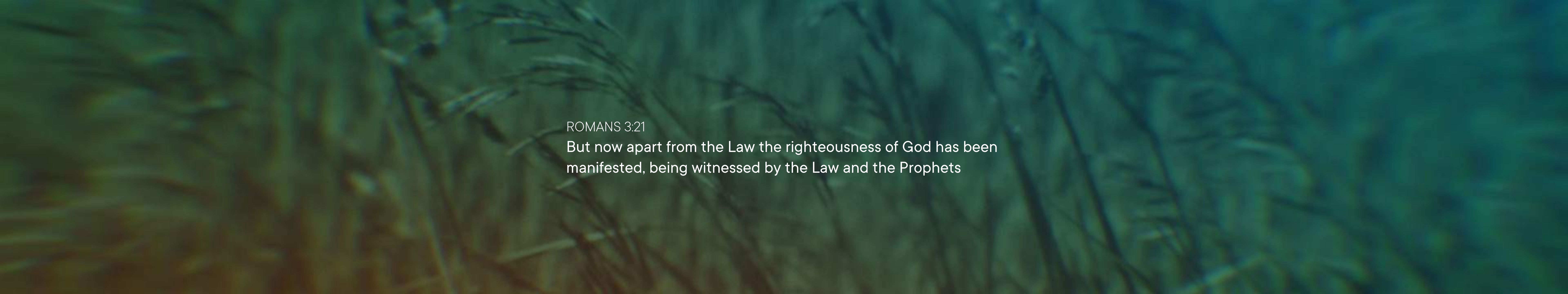
³ For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favour, but as what is due.

⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness

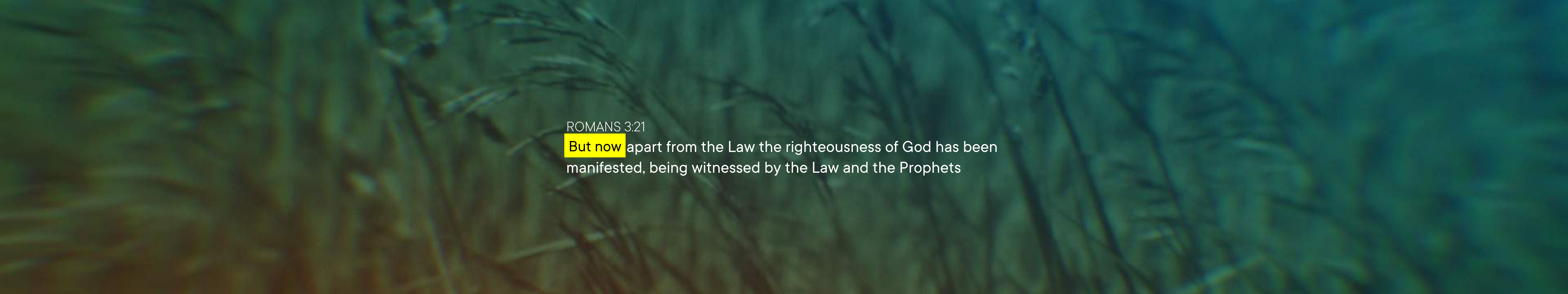
THE PROVISION OF GRACE

1. The Provision of Grace *(3:21-31)*
2. The Illustrations of Grace *(4:1-12)*
3. The Application from Grace *(4:1-25)*



ROMANS 3:21

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been
manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets



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ROMANS 3:21-22

²¹ But now

apart from the Law

the righteousness of God has been manifested

being witnessed by the Law and the prophets,

²² even the righteousness of God

through faith in Jesus Christ

for all those who believe;

for there is no distinction

ROMANS 3:23-24

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

²⁴ being justified as a gift

by His grace

through the redemption

which is in Christ Jesus

WHAT IS GRACE?

GOD'S RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE

Grace is

- unmerited favour
- unconditional love
- free gift of salvation
- limitless power to overcome sin

THE PROVISION OF GRACE

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ABRAHAM WAS CREDITED AS RIGHTEOUS ...

Not because he was perfect.

He lied about Sarah to protect his own life.

Not because he was a friend of God

Even though God called him so.

Rather, he was credited as righteous because *he believed.*

λογίζομαι

to keep records of commercial accounts,
involving both debits and credits

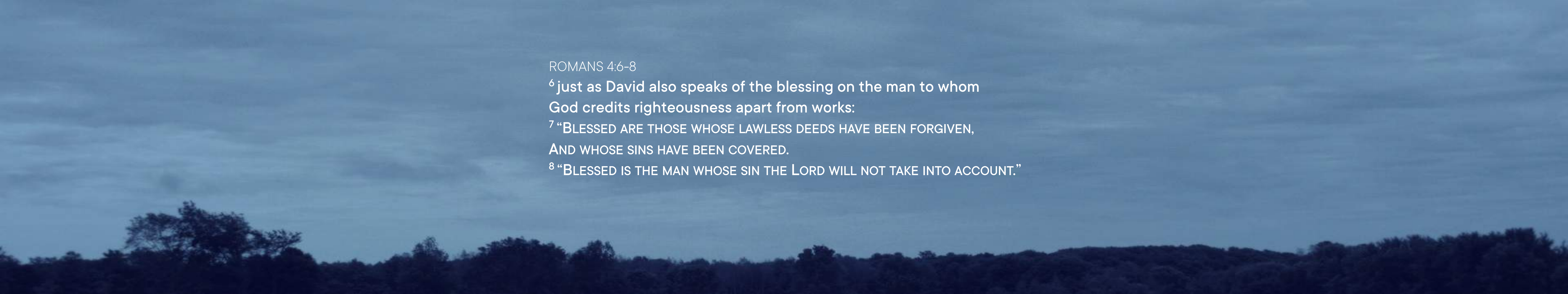
to put into one's account
to charge one's account
to regard as an account

MY ACCOUNT				
	DEBIT	Value	CREDIT	Value
1	Treated my MIL unkindly	-1	Tithe regularly	+1
2	Gossiped about colleagues	-1	Attended Come Bless the Lord	+2
3	Got impatient when driving	-2	Read the Bible	+3
4	Complained about SP	-10	Encouraged SP	+4
	TOTAL DEBIT	-14	TOTAL CREDIT	+10
NETT				-4

This is *not* how it works for God.

ABRAHAM'S ACCOUNT				
	DEBIT	Value		
1	Lied about Sarah as wife	-1		
2	Laughed at God's promise of an heir	-3		
3	Tried to take things into his own hands	-10		
	TOTAL DEBIT	-14		

ABRAHAM'S ACCOUNT				
	DEBIT	Value	CREDIT	Value
1	Lied about Sarah as wife	-1	Belief/Faith (in God)	
2	Laughed at God's promise of an heir	-3		
3	Tried to take things into his own hands	-10		
	TOTAL DEBIT	-14	TOTAL CREDIT	RIGHTEOUS!

The background of the image is a dark blue, cloudy sky. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a forest or a line of trees. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

ROMANS 4:6-8

⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom
God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN,
AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

⁸ “BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.”

DAVID: RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH (*and not by works*)

Psalm 51

David confesses his sins after Bathsheba and Uriah

→ “I will teach transgressors Your ways.”

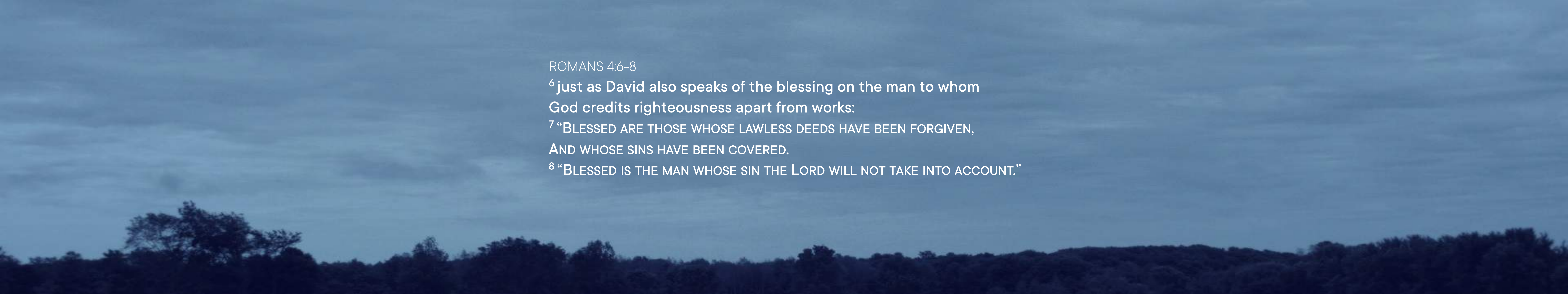
Psalm 51:13

Psalm 32

David celebrates the blessing of forgiveness

→ “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven.”

Psalm 32:1



ROMANS 4:6-8

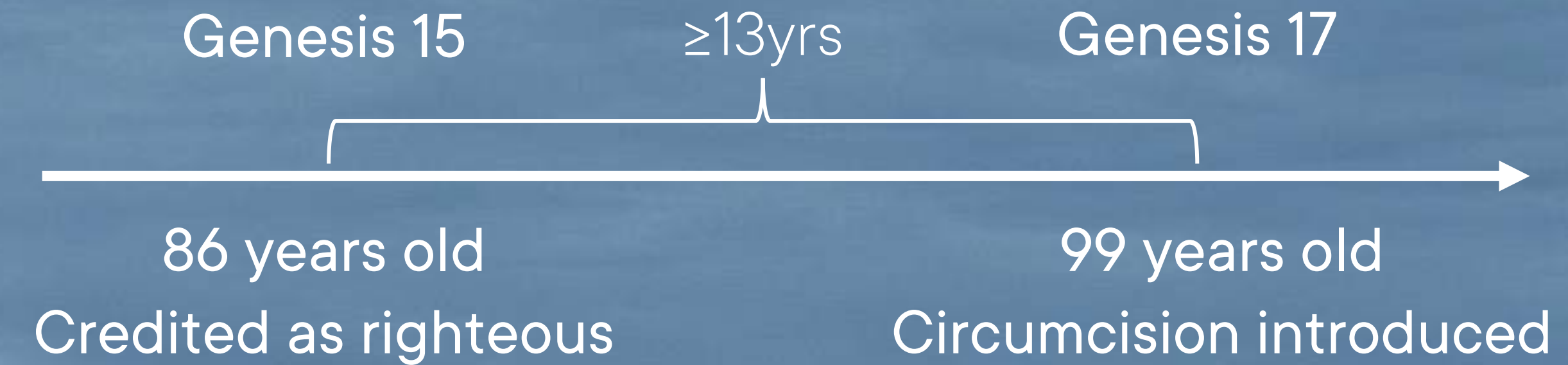
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ROMANS 4:10-12

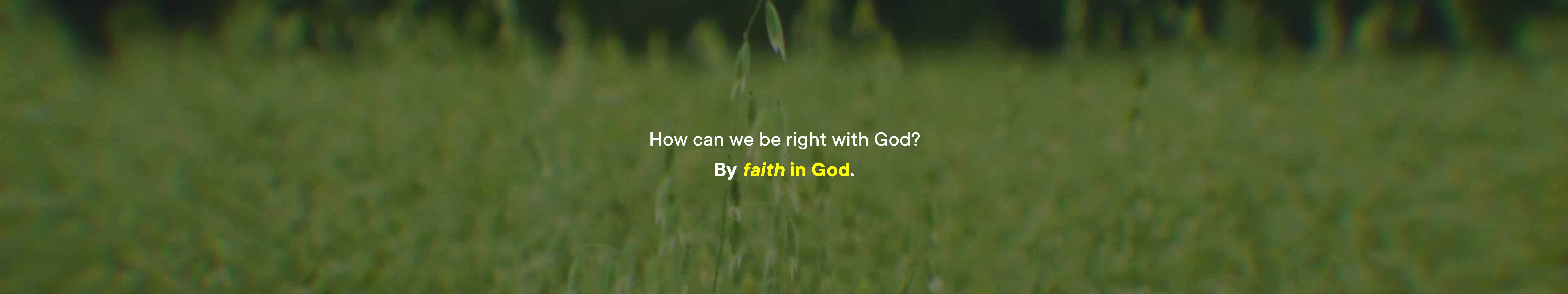
¹⁰ How then was it credited? While he was circumcised,
or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;
¹¹ and he received the sign of circumcision a seal of the righteousness
of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be
the father of all who believe without being circumcised,
that righteousness might be credited to them
¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are
of the circumcision but who also follow in the steps of the faith
of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.



Circumcision is only the seal of what had already happened,
not the cause of justification.

THE PROVISION OF GRACE

1. The Provision of Grace (3:21-31)
2. The Illustrations of Grace (4:1-12)
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How can we be right with God?
By **faith in God.**

How can we be right with God?

By ***faith*** in **God**.

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us
our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

PSALM 138:2b

... For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

A. FAITH IS NECESSARY (4:1-12)

³ *“Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness”*

Not because he **worked for God**.

Not because he **sacrificed for God**.

Not because he **did something to earn it**.

But because **he believed**.

A. FAITH IS NECESSARY (4:1-12)

³ *“Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness”*

Circumcision only happened 13 years *after* justification.

HEBREWS 11:6

But without faith, it is impossible to please Him.

B. FAITH IS SIMPLE (4:13-17)

¹³ *“For the promise to Abraham ... was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.”*

God has spoken. Faith is trusting Him!

You may not see the way forward, but God sees you.

B. FAITH IS SIMPLE (4:13-17)

¹³ *“For the promise to Abraham ... was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.”*

GENESIS 16:13

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her,
“You are a God who sees.”

Hagar gave God the name *El Roi* – God who sees me.

HEBREWS 4:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

C. FAITH IS TENACIOUS (4:18-25)

¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” ¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but **grew strong in faith**, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that **what God had promised, He was able also to perform**. ²² Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. ²³ Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, ²⁴ but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

C. FAITH IS TENACIOUS (4:18-25)

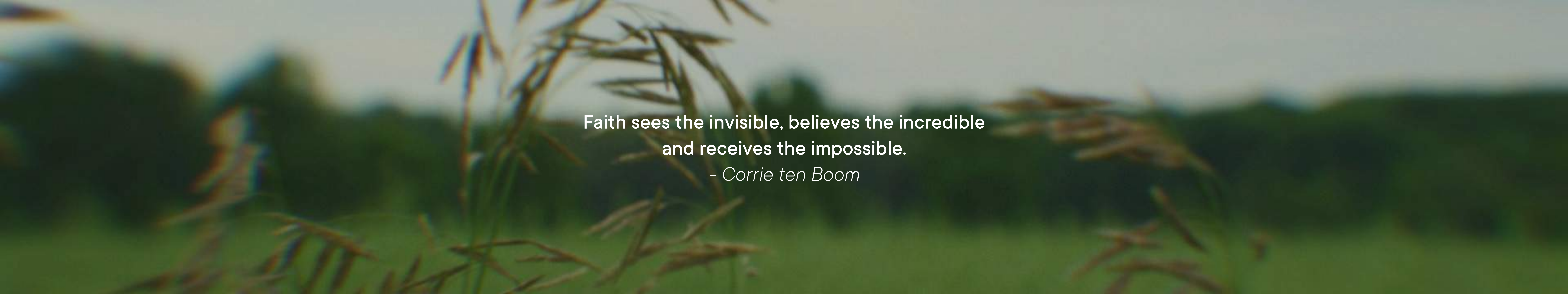
1. Abraham ignored the impossible (*hope against hope*).
2. We want the triumph of faith, but resist the testing of faith.
3. However, it is in the testing of faith that we can see greater glory!

The image features a soft-focus background of a lush green field. In the immediate foreground, several stalks of tall, thin grass are visible, some in sharp focus and others blurred. In the far distance, a faint rainbow is visible against a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

We must be a people who perseveres in faith.



Little faith will bring your soul to heaven;
A great faith will bring heaven to your soul.
– *Charles Spurgeon*



Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible
and receives the impossible.

- *Corrie ten Boom*