When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ‘And I will make my covenant between me and you, and you will make me exceedingly numerous.’” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ‘No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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.

He said, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.” Then he told her, “I will give you a son by her, and you shall call him Isaac. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

And Abraham said, “If Sarah my wife should not become the mother of a son to me, then a son shall come to me through Eliezer my servant.” But she said, “I will not be the mother of Isaac, my lord. My master said to me, ‘The child shall come from your own body,’ and now he says, ‘Your body will bear me a son.’” This was impossible, because she was about ninety years old, and he was about a hundred years old.

Then he said, “This will be my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ‘No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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.’

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.” Then he told her, “I will give you a son by her, and you shall call him Isaac. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Now the words, “It was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.