

ABRAHAMIC FAITH

(Anti-Naturalistic Faith of Abraham)

Introduction:

Most operate on a “summary” of the Bible. The overall story of the Gospel passed on to them.

One cannot underestimate the effect of this “summary”. Many assumptions are made concerning the meaning of words and passages.

Many do not have a direct knowledge of the Revelation.

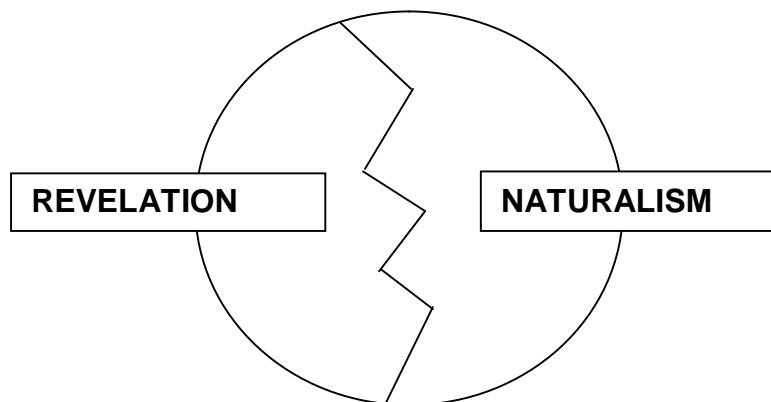
Most of what is taught in the Word of God (Bible) clashes with that “SUMMARY”.

REMEMBER: God in His GRACE gave it (the Law) through a PROMISE (Gal 3:18). We have forgotten the PROMISE. Many do not believe the PROMISE. Many do not fully understand Grace.

1.0 NATURALISM vs. REVELATION

- 1.1 We all, by virtue of our place or position in the world have a perspective. We make conclusions. We settle on matters. Whether consciously or unconsciously we use language to define what we believe. We declare assertions to all who listen...God or mankind!

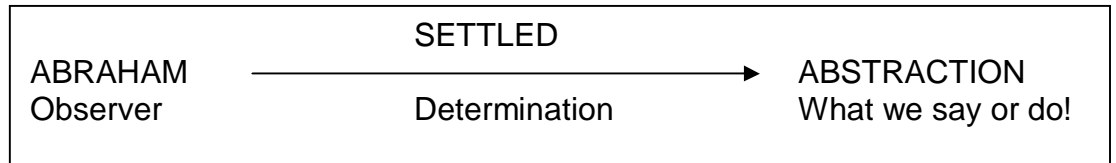
THE WORLD WE LIVE IN



- 1.2 Our language ALWAYS expresses something about how we see the world and the power or lack of power we have <OR> the power the world has to control our lives.

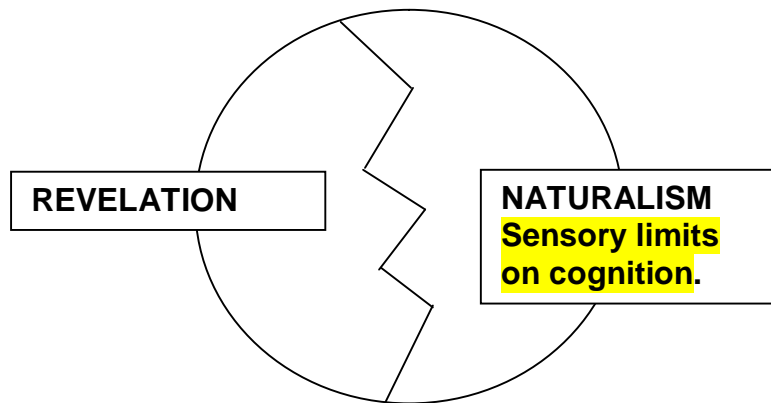
(Note: As we shall see later on, material conditions or circumstances have NO control over our lives at all!) NATURE has no power, ONLY God.

- 1.3 Some may say: “If I wasn’t so old or if I were a man or a woman I would be able to _____!”
- 1.4 NOTE: Diagram above. On the Naturalistic side of our universe (where we live) ABSTRACTIONS (language, words, actions) are settled (determined, concluded) by our OBSERVATIONS. That is our language, what we say about our NATURAL world, is determined by what we experience through our central nervous system (CNS). That is basically what NATURALISM is.
EX: We say , “my car tire is flat; I will be late for work; my boss fires late people (Observations); I will be fired (Settled Conclusion)! All based on observation, common sense, and inductive reason.
- 1.5 RO 4:19 “Body was as good as dead”



- Q: What does the scripture say in Genesis that he said and did?
- A: **I can’t be the father of many nations as God promised because Sarah is too old and “my body is as good as dead”!**
- RHQ: How could Abraham live with this contradiction BETWEEN what God said and what he observed about his bodily condition.
- 1.6 There is ALWAYS a contradiction between REVELATION and NATURALISM!

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

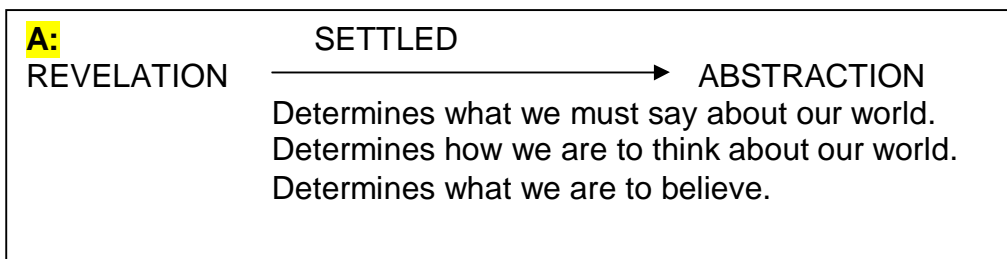


EX: **KADESH BARNEAH: NU 14: 2-4.**

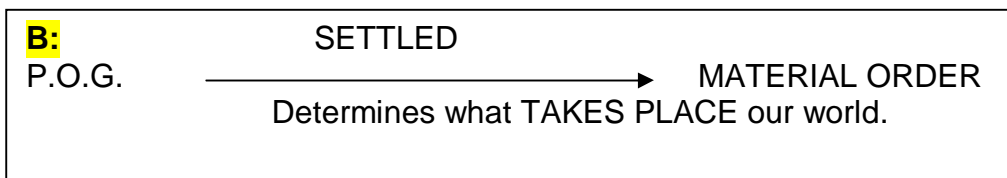
1.7 CONCLUSION: Revelation and Observations ----Contradict

1.7.1 We can say (observation) what is true about our condition or we can have REVELATION say what is true about our condition.

1.7.1.1 The Word of God (W.O.G.) tells us what to say about our condition and how to see (observe) it.



1.7.1.2 The Power of God (P.O.G.) settles what takes place in the MATERIAL world. The POG is how God does what He does!



2.0 QUESTION: WHAT DID ABRAHAM DO WITH THE FACTS IN REVELATION IN “A” and “B” ABOVE.

2.1 In “A” above we see REVELATION sets the conditions (parameters) on what Abraham would say.

2.1.1 RO 4: 21 Abraham heard what God said (PROMISE) and he believed. He believed what God could do (POG).

2.2 We tend to separate “A” from “B”.

2.2.1 In “A” facts of the Material World (events of life, experience) become historical. (PS 119)

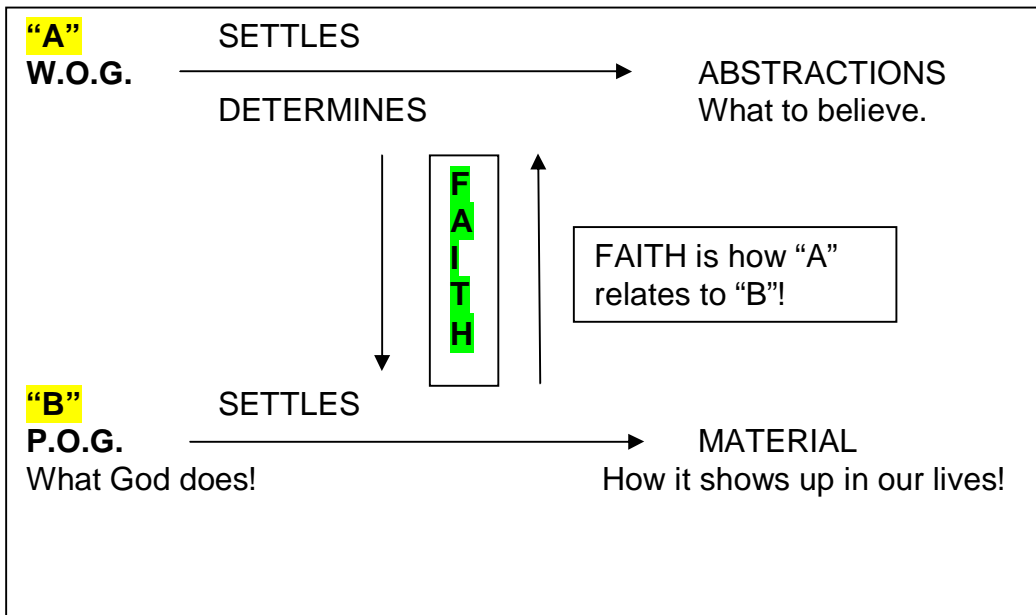
2.2.2 In “B” , well, this is totally out of the question **BECAUSE WE SAY IN THE CHURCH GOD DOES NOT DO THIS ANYMORE.**

2.3 What ROLE does God have in human affairs. Most of society says He has no role!

2.4 (Q:) How do “A” and “B” relate to each other?
(A:) Through Faith!

2.4.1 FAITH ...One cannot say he has faith (I believe in the word of God) if one does not believe God has the power to do it.

2.4.2 **FAITH is operating beyond the range of what our senses (CSN) says about our material world. (MT 22:29)**



THIS IS ANTI-NATURALISM.

3.0 RO 4: 18-25 IS THIS HOPE AGAINST ALL HOPE?

3.1

ETERNAL
W.O.G. / P.O.G. → HOPE

RO 4: 18 AGAINST ALL HOPE
WHAT? HE believed!

- ✓ NO HOPE FOR THE PROMISE OF GOD TO BE FULFILLED NATURALLY!
- ✓ ABRAHAM WAS AGAINST
- ✓ HE DID NOT LOSE HOPE.
- ✓ HE SHIFTED HOPE FROM NATURE TO WOG AND THE POG.
- ✓ HE ANCHORED HOPE IN WHAT HE COULD NOT SEE!

RO 4:18
CASUAL

“...SO HE BECAME THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS.”

- ✓ BECAME FATHER NOT BY NATURE
- ✓ THEN HOW...BY POG!
- ✓ BIOLOGY OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH WERE CHANGED. WHY?
- ✓ BECAUSE ABRAHAM BELIEVED!

❖ FRUIT...TRUST IN WOG AND THE POG IS PARAMOUNT WHICH IS AN INHERENT ELEMENT IN ABRAHAMIC FAITH

NATURAL
TRUST IN
HOPE → NATURE

AGAINST ALL HOPE

- THERE IS NO HOPE IN NATURE
- REQUIRES TRUST IN SELF.
- REQUIRES TRUST IN EXPERIENCE.
- REQUIRES TRUST OUR SENSES.

THESE ARE ALL DEFICIENT!

REV 1: 18-19
NOT CASUAL

GOD SAYS...“I HOLD THE KEYS TO DEATH AND HADES.”

GOD THEN HAS WORLD/NATURE TO CONFORM TO HIS WILL!

3.1 RO 4:19 AGAIN, In nature the “body was as good as dead”. This is a major error for us to say what Abraham had once believed as many today now do!

3.2 RO 4: 9-11 ‘...SO THEN,... he became the father of many nations.

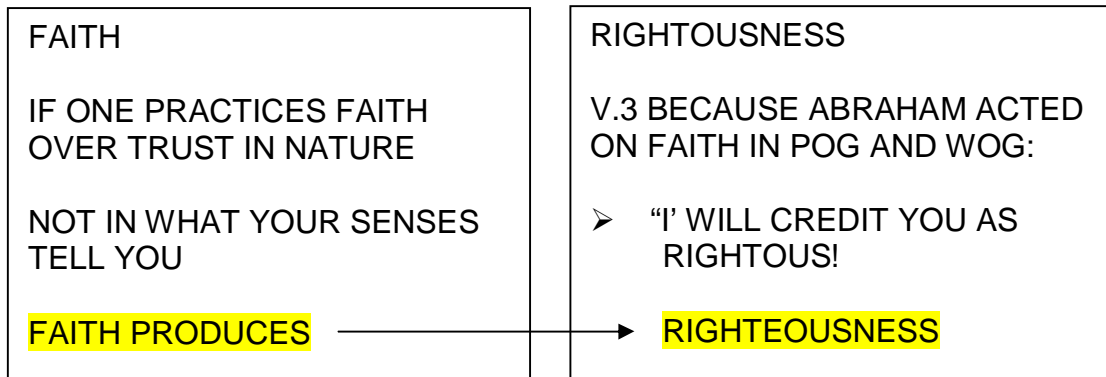
- There is NO activity here by mankind.
- No activity here to glorify our wisdom.
- Activity was by the POG ONLY!
- Activity based on:
 - PROMISE OF GOD
 - ABRAMAIC FAITH

3.3 RO 4: 16- 17 Abraham subordinated what APPEARS (CNS) to be POWER in Nature to POG and WOG. (MT 22:29) NOTE:

- PROMISE COMES BY FAITH IN WOG AND POG!
- PROMISE IS FOR JEW AND GENTILE
- GOD HOLDS THE KEYES IN ALL MATTERS!!!!!!

4.0 RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

4.1 OPERATING IN NATURE (WORKS) DOES NOT BRING US RIGHTEOUSNESS! (RO 4: 1-3)



4.2 THE POINT! FAITH in POG and WOG produces a STATE OF BEING before GOD...not having your sins counted against you!

4.3 Work of God!
 Q: How does God move from the FAITH we have to RIGHTEOUSNESS?
 A: Because He said He would!

- ✓ NOTE: We all GENERALIZE, BUT we will NOT be counted as RIGHTOUS IF we generalize from NATURE! Which is believing the PROMISE regardless of what nature, experience or ourselves have to say about the world in which we live.

✓ We must have ABRAHAMIC FAITH = Generalizing from WOG and POG.

5.0 THE WALL!

5.1 RO 4: 20-21 CORRESPONDING TRUTH OF GOD AND FAITH OF ABRAHAM.

| | |
|---|---|
| A. V.20, He did not waiver through unbelief..., BUT was strengthened in his FAITH..." | → 1. Abraham asserted FAITH above NATURE. |
| B. v.20, He gave GLORY to God. | → 2. He asserted God above SELF! |
| C. He was persuaded --- ABSOLUTE conviction God COULD and WOULD do as He promised. | → 3. Abraham asserted REVELATION above his experience...Human Intelligence! |

5.2 COMPOSITION OF THE WALL!

5.2.1 NU 13 -14 (Spec. 14: 1-3) If Israel had ABRAHAMIC FAITH, they would have believe the WOG and POG at the Red Sea. BUT, they believed that the Laws of Nature were greater than the PROMISE of God.

5.2.2 RHQ: What can we know from the text?
A: They believed their understanding of NATURE, EXPERIENCE, and SELF was greater knowledge than the PROMISE of God!

5.2.3 This WALL became an OBSTACLE to them. It can be our wall of stumbling as well.

5.2.4 ABRAHAM breached THE WALL (NATURE, EXPERIENCE, SELF)

5.2.5 The "crowd" that obeyed the gospel in Acts 2:38 did so with full knowledge that they would have to breach the wall!

5.2.6 OUR TASK....BREACH THE WALL!

5.2.7

BUT if we BREACH the Wall, WE will SUFFER!

5.2.7.1

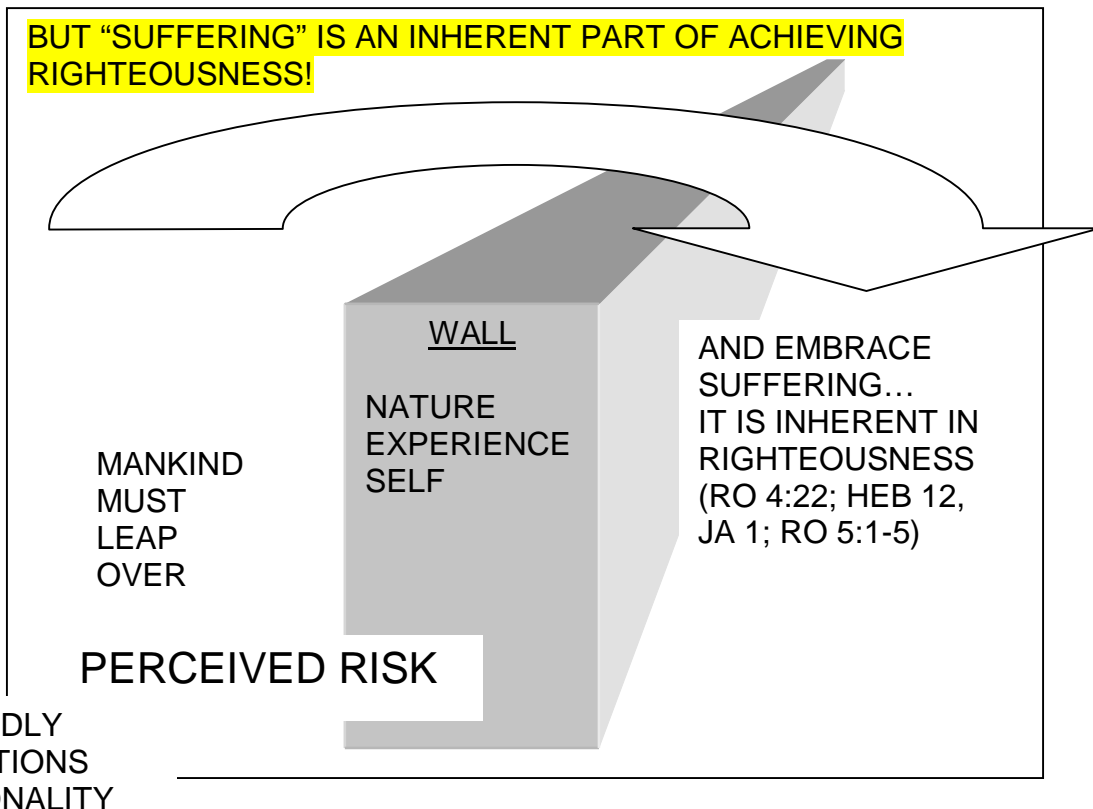
We have invented, manufactured or GENERATED an **ARTICLE OF FAITH!**

5.2.7.2

That is...THERE IS NO NEED TO SUFFER. SUFFERING IS UNNECESSARY. In short many truly believe that we can **TRUST** in human intelligence.

5.2.7.3

We contend "SUFFERING" in this modern world of medical and technological advances, that "SUFFERING" is unnecessary! After all, we have "RIGHTS"; we have physicians which we declare are CASUAL. BUT...ACTS 12:23, Herod killed by God (Casual) , not worms. (Nature not casual).



- 5.2.7.4 In the ancient world (DEU 8) the Jews RATIONALIZED that SUFFERING was:
- ✓ POINTLESS
 - ✓ UNNECESSARY
 - ✓ MEANINGLESS
 - ✓ And UNJUST
- 5.2.7.5 In the contemporary world we also contend it is as noted (above point).
- 5.2.7.6 Most will say: If you SUFFER you just weren't smart enough to avoid travail. (EXO 13,14)
- 5.2.7.7 BUT, this is what the Jews were saying about the leadership of Israel. They thought Moses was inept and led them into trouble. (NU 14:2)

Deu 8: 1-5

SUFFERING is NECESSARY

SUFFERING leads to RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Acts 9: 16)

SUFFERING leads to PERFECTION (JA 1:2-4; RO 5:1-5)

NOT POINTLESS


TO REJECT SUFFERING IS TO REJECT RIGHTEOUSNESS / GRACE

If you want no part of suffering you want no part of me! Jesus RO 8:17

Jews Rationalized Suffering was:

- ✓ POINTLESS
- ✓ MEANINGLESS
- ✓ UNNECESSARY
- ✓ UNJUST
- ✓ JUST NOT INTELLIGENT OR NATURAL.

To REJECT SUFFERING is reasonable! One must be out of ones mind to want it!



5.2.7.8 We reject
"SUFFERING" BECAUSE we
reject ABRAHAMIC FAITH. (DEU
8)

5.27.9 ABRAHAMIC
FAITH gives meaning to
suffering.

6.0 HOPE IS NOT IN NATURE, EXPERIENCE, SELF

6.1 Death of the obdurate Jews, life to the righteous.

6.2 Our BIGGEST hurdle!

| <u>REVELATION</u> | <u>THE WALL</u> Nature, Experience, Self | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>A. POG B. WOG</p> <p>Nu 13: The 2 Spies NOT moved by THE WALL.</p> <p>“A” and “B” MAKE NO DIFFERENCE!</p> <p>Whether we can or cannot does NOT depend on WALL.</p> <p>DEPENDS ON GOD!</p> <p>OUTCOMES in our lives come from WOG and POG ONLY.</p> <p>Hannah</p> | <p>A. NO HOPE IN NATURE</p> <p>NO HOPE in NATURE</p> <p>GOD WON'T HELP</p> <p>GEN 16 HAGAR →</p> <p>CAN'T EXPECT GOD TO CHANGE BIOLOGY.</p> <p>KADESH BARNEA... THEY SAW NO NATURAL ABILITY OF GOD TO HELP THEM!</p> <p>Shunamite Woman.</p> <p>NO DIFFERENTIAL DISTINCTION IN THESE TWO ...A or B, both are Naturalistic. We put the distinction there through rationalization.</p> <p>If One places (builds) hope in the WALL, he may do fine, BUT...that is NOT ABRAHAMIC FAITH!</p> <p>THE WALL can condition outcomes, even though IT has NO POWER!</p> <p>The distinction is in what you believe, i.e., what you say about conditions.</p> | <p>B. HOPE IN WALL</p> <p>WE DON'T NEED GOD GOD NOT WITH US.</p> <p>NATURAL HOPE IN HAGAR (H.I. Solution, FISHING FOR HOPE)</p> <p>HOPE IS IN THE WALL</p> |

MT 16:8-12, Ye of little FAITH, loaves
 MT 16:23 Peter rebukes Jesus, “Things of men on your mind.
 MT 14:13 Loaves and fishes;
 MK 6:30 8 months wages to feed 5K!

7.0 Summary

- 7.1 One cannot say they have FAITH in Jesus <OR> that they are living by FAITH, and then make decisions about matters of this world based on experience (past successful practices, nature, or the self).
- 7.2 This is the crux of the Gospel.
- 7.3 We MUST embrace “suffering” for it is an inherent part of ABRAHAMIC FAITH and thus achieving RIGHTEOUSNESS before God.
- 7.4 If preachers build their message around the WALL, government will leave them alone!