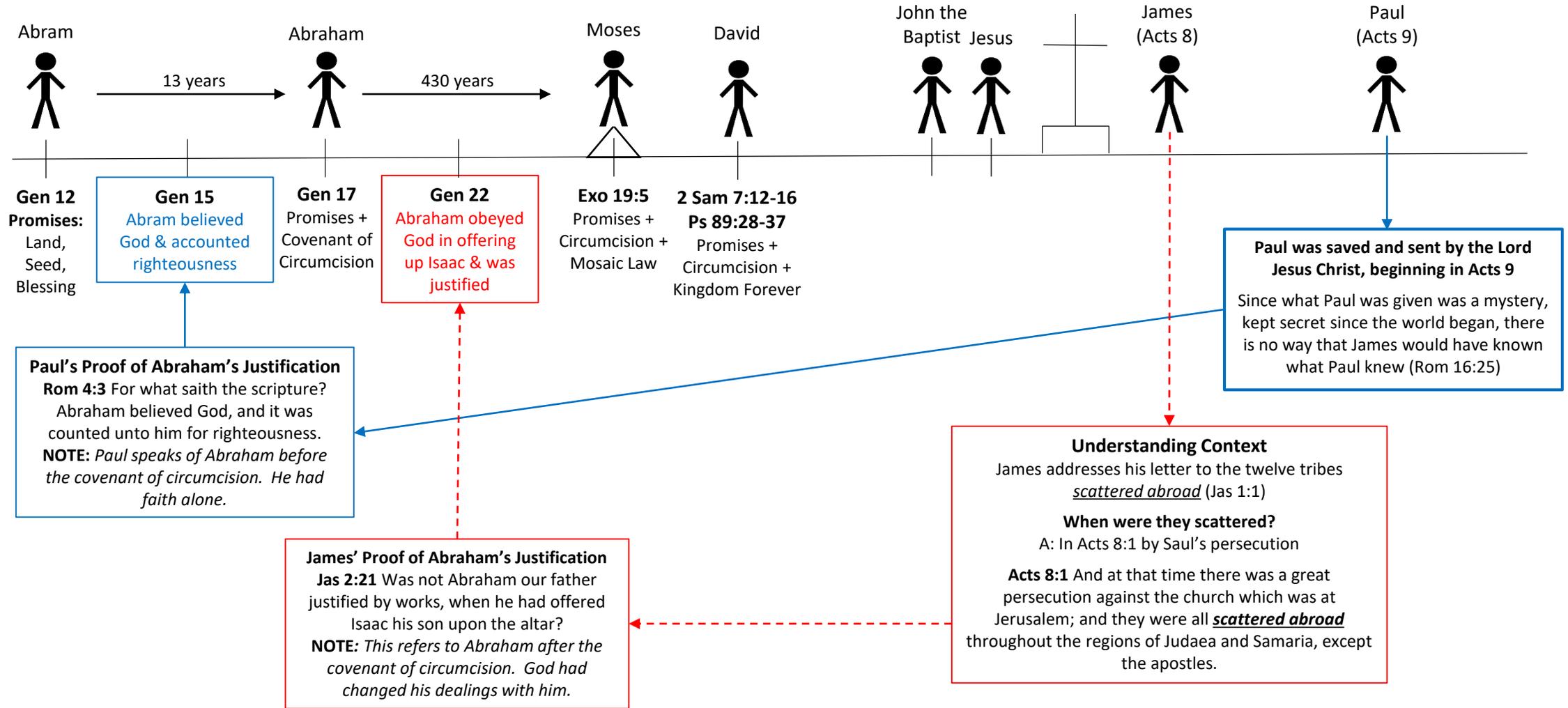


Abraham's Justification:

How to understand the accounts of James & Paul

Rightly Dividing Paul & James: For the past 2,000 years, the confusion over Paul's account of Abraham in Romans 4 and James' account of Abraham in James 2 has plagued many a Christian. Either justification is by faith, or it is by faith and accompanying works. The short answer is the content of their faith was different. James had faith in Christ as Messiah and the covenants given to Israel. Paul, given the revelation of the mystery of Christ, put forth faith alone in Christ alone without covenants or accompanying works – this is the preaching of the cross.



Paul's Proof of Abraham's Justification
Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture?
 Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
NOTE: Paul speaks of Abraham before the covenant of circumcision. He had faith alone.

James' Proof of Abraham's Justification
Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
NOTE: This refers to Abraham after the covenant of circumcision. God had changed his dealings with him.

Understanding Context
 James addresses his letter to the twelve tribes *scattered abroad* (Jas 1:1)
When were they scattered?
 A: In Acts 8:1 by Saul's persecution
Acts 8:1 And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all *scattered abroad* throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Paul was saved and sent by the Lord Jesus Christ, beginning in Acts 9
 Since what Paul was given was a mystery, kept secret since the world began, there is no way that James would have known what Paul knew (Rom 16:25)