

A night sky with a starry background, a bright star at the top, and a city silhouette at the bottom. The sky is a mix of blue and purple, with a bright star at the top center. The city silhouette is at the bottom, and the overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

[Rom. 4:16-21]

¹⁶ *Therefore, [inheriting] the promise depends entirely on faith [that is, confident trust in the unseen God], in order that it may be given as an act of grace [His unmerited favor and mercy], so that the promise will be [legally] guaranteed to all the descendants [of Abraham]—not only for those [Jewish believers] who keep the Law, but also for those [Gentile believers] who share the faith of Abraham, who is the [spiritual] father of us all—*

17 ...as it is written [in Scripture], “I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS”) in the sight of Him in whom he believed, that is, God-who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

18 In hope against hope Abraham believed that he would become a father of many nations, as he had been promised [by God]: “So [numberless] SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.”

19 Without becoming weak in faith he considered his own body, now as good as dead [for producing children] since he was about a hundred years old, and [he considered] the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 But he did not doubt or waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and empowered by faith, giving glory to God,

*21 being fully convinced that God had the power to do what He had promised.” **Amp***

[Rom. 8:24-25], “²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved [by faith]. But hope [the object of] which is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he already sees?* ²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait eagerly for it with patience and composure.*” **Amp**

[Rom. 8:24-25], “*That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don’t see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.*” **The Message**

God wants to:

- **Dismantle your limitation**
- **Destroy your doubt**

(Romans 5:5)

“Such hope [in God’s promises] never disappoints us, because God’s love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” **AMP**

(Rom. 4:18)

*“In hope against hope,” Abraham believed that he would become a father of many nations, as he had been promised [by God.....” **Amp***

I. This Faith Is Not Passive, But Perpetual

(Rom. 4:20), *“But he did not doubt or waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and empowered by faith, giving glory to God,*

21 being fully convinced that God had the power to do what He had promised.”

II. This Faith Is Not Stagnant, but Transformative

(vs. 21), “ *being fully convinced that God had the power to do what He had promised.* ”

This kind of faith does not rely on our understanding or our circumstances, but on God's character, His faithfulness, and HIS TIMING.

(Malachi 3:1), *“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will prepare and clear the way before Me. And the Lord [the Messiah], whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,”* says the LORD of hosts.”

Amp

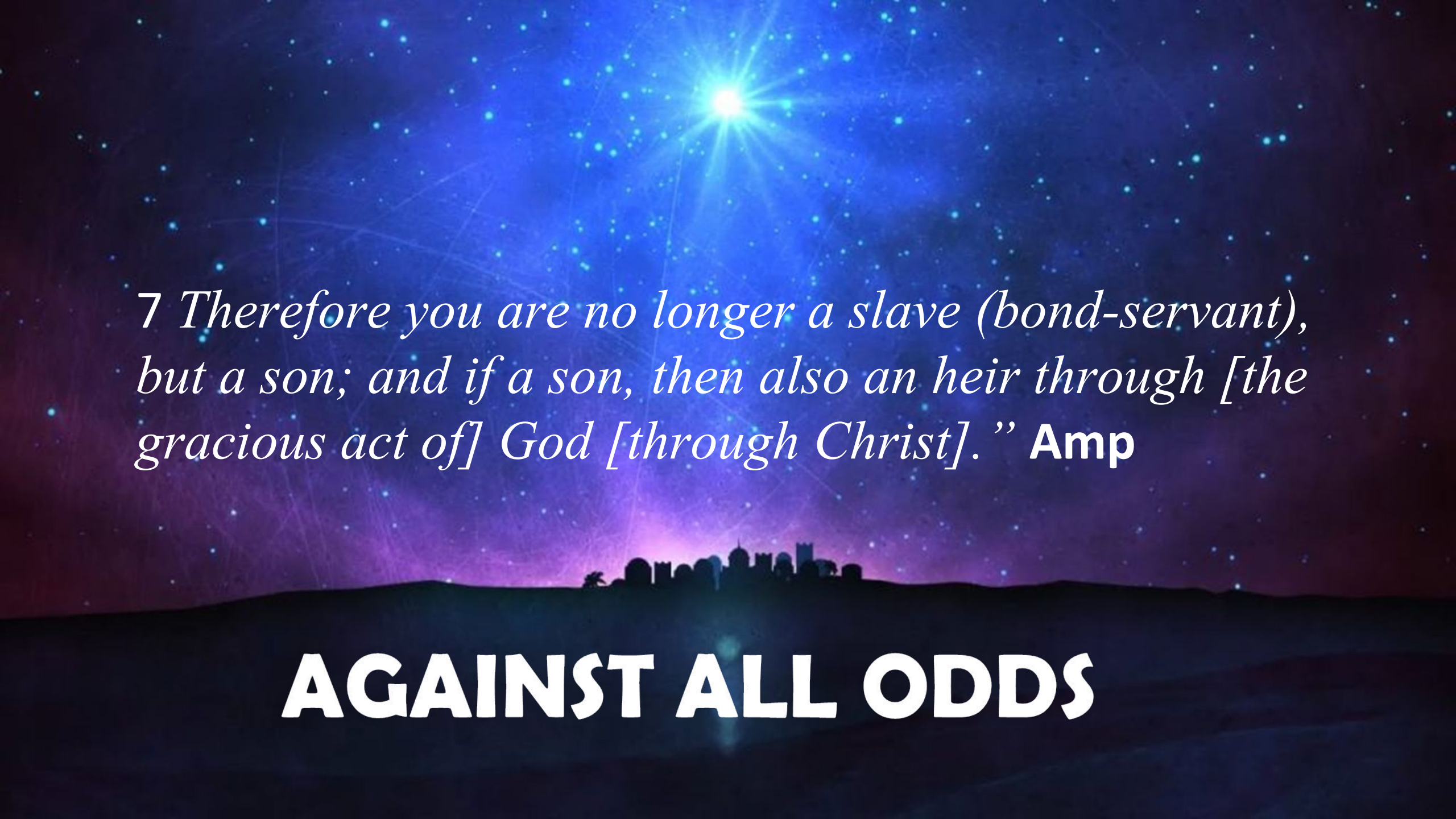
III. A Statistical Improbability

(Gal. 4:3-6), “So also we [whether Jews or Gentiles], when we were children (spiritually immature), were kept like slaves under the elementary [man-made religious or philosophical] teachings of the world.

4 But when [in God’s plan] the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the [regulations of the] Law...

5...so that He might redeem and liberate those who were under the Law, that we [who believe] might be adopted as sons [as God's children with all rights as fully grown members of a family].

6 And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out,]“Abba! Father!”

A night sky with a bright star and a city silhouette. The sky is dark blue and purple, with a bright star in the upper center. A silhouette of a city skyline is visible on the horizon. The text is overlaid on the sky.

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave (bond-servant), but a son; and if a son, then also an heir through [the gracious act of] God [through Christ].” Amp

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