

- **Remembering the Covenant**

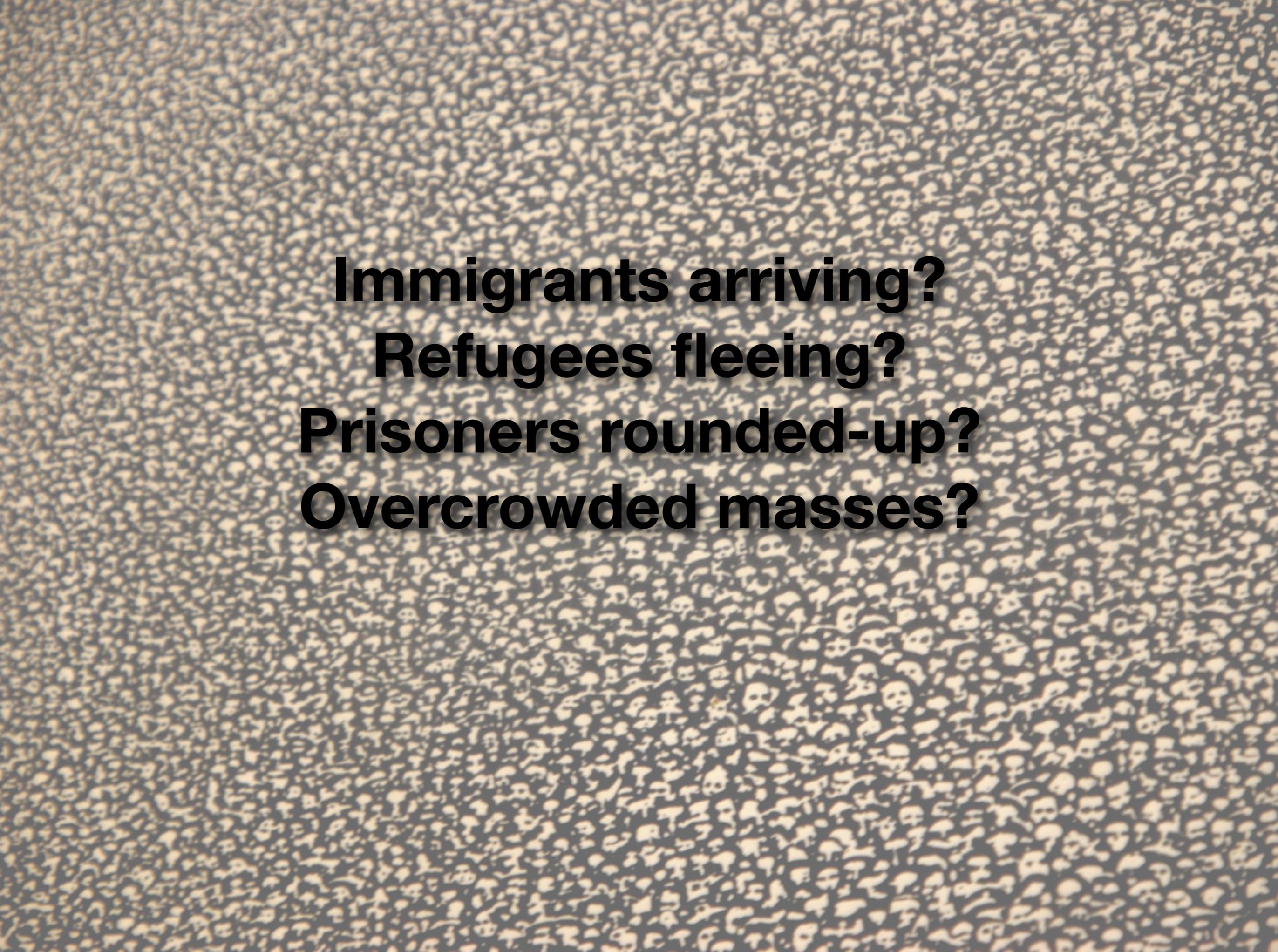
- “...And the Lord remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob” (Exodus 2:24)









A large, dense crowd of people, primarily men, is shown from the chest up. They are all looking directly at the camera with various expressions. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

**Immigrants arriving?
Refugees fleeing?
Prisoners rounded-up?
Overcrowded masses?**

I only figured out part of this a few days ago...

ROMAN OPALKA

" I MAKE YOUR DESCEND-
ANTS AS NUMEROUS AS
GRAINS OF EARTH DUST "

ETCHING 1969

24 1/4 X 19 1/2 "

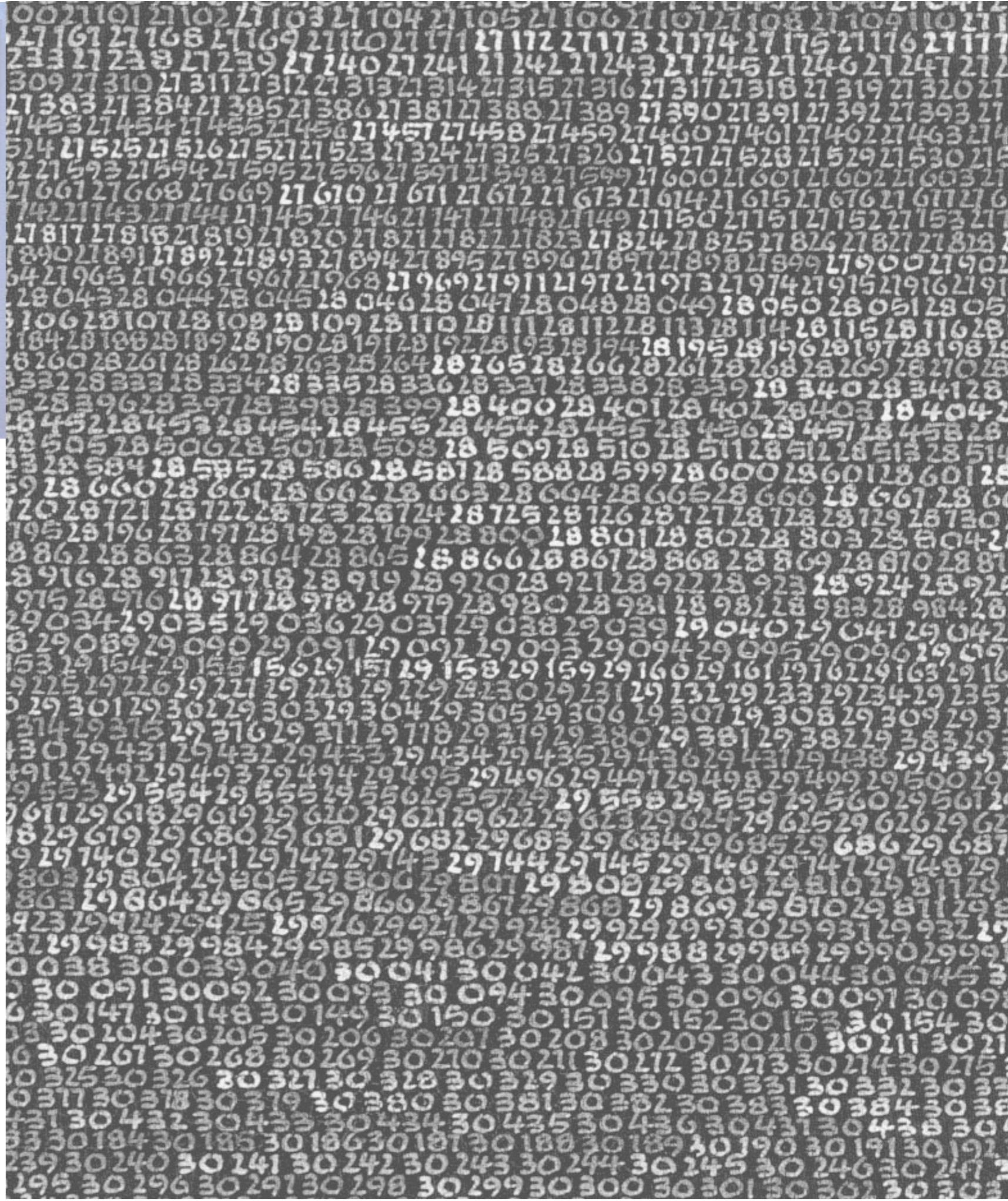
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Roman Opalka has been painting increasing numbers since 1965

Generally thought to be marking time passing

But also invokes the difficulties of infinite growth - where to stop?



ROMAN OPALKA

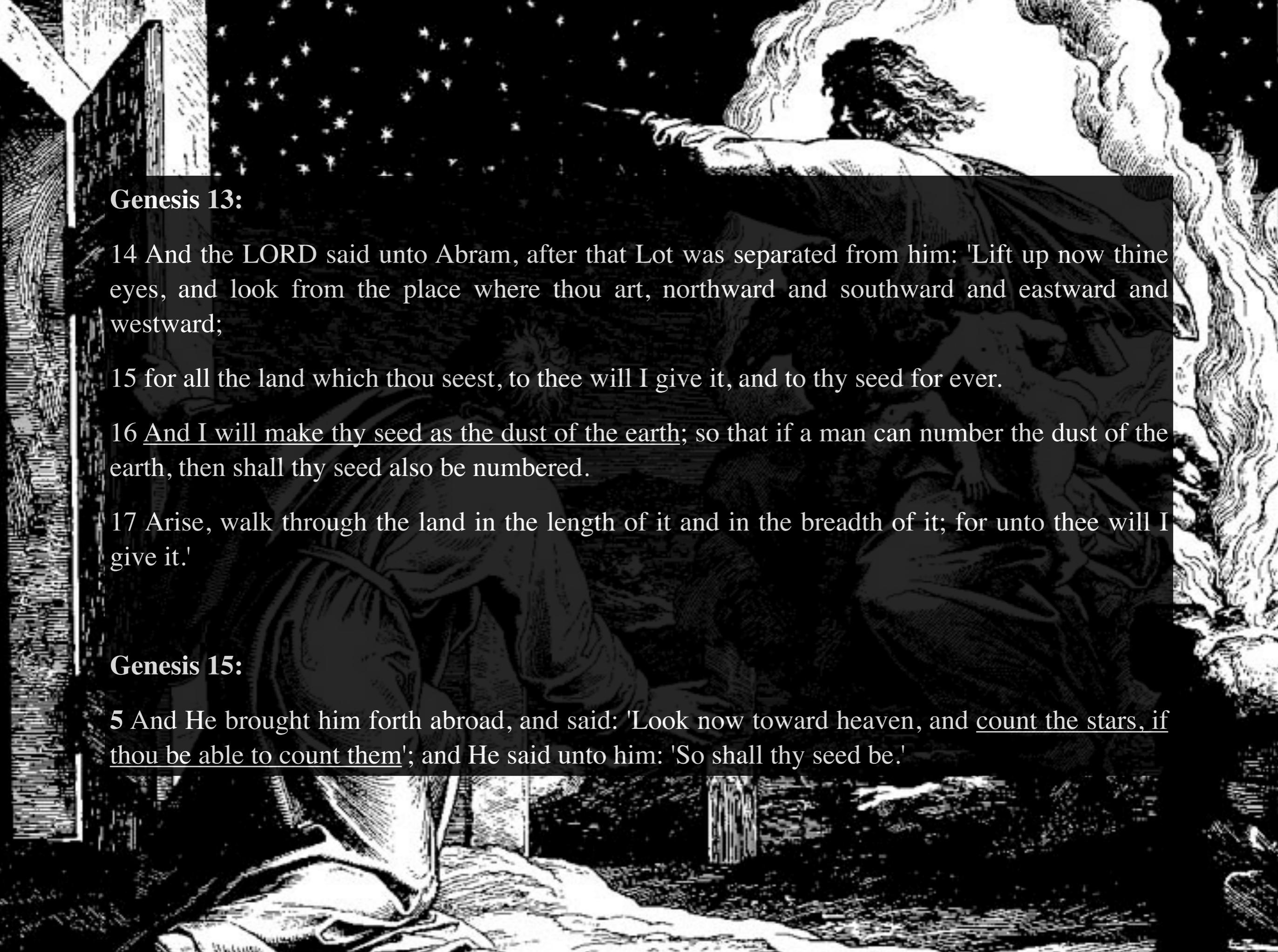
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Genesis 13:

14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him: 'Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

15 for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for unto thee will I give it.'

Genesis 15:

5 And He brought him forth abroad, and said: 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars, if thou be able to count them'; and He said unto him: 'So shall thy seed be.'



When does God remember?

- **Jews fled from famine to Egypt, and multiplied their numbers**
 - Threatening to Pharaoh -- population and political loyalty

Exodus 1: 9 And he said unto his people: 'Behold, the people of the children of Israel are too many and too mighty for us; **10** come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there befalleth us any war, they also join themselves unto our enemies, and fight against us, and get them up out of the land.'

- **Forced into labor, threatened with infanticide (i.e. genocide)**
 - Did not stem growth - Jews were vigorous and didn't need midwives
- **Only when Pharaoh started actually enforcing infanticide did God “remember” his covenant, i.e. start to do something to keep it**

2:23 And it came to pass in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died; and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

2:25 And God saw the children of Israel, and God took cognizance of them.

Covenant: growth & life

vs.

World: boundaries, finite resources