

# Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

## The Custodians of the Covenant and their Descendants

Part 6

The "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews chapter 11 is a list of people in the Old Testament who were living examples for you and I that Paul said should be remembered because of their faith in God. The readers of Hebrews are encouraged to imitate the faith of these men and women of the past as instructed not just by Paul but all of the New Testament writers including Jesus Himself.

Paul writes what they all had in common, telling you and I today not just to live by faith to please God, and be obedient to His Commands but also how to think in order to keep in the right or righteous mindset.

### **Hebrews 11:13-15 AMPC**

**13 These people all died controlled and sustained by their faith, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of [God's] promises, only having seen it and greeted it from a great distance by faith, and all the while acknowledging and confessing that they were strangers and temporary residents and exiles upon the earth.**

*14 Now those people who talk as they did show plainly that they are in search of a fatherland (their own country).*

**15 If they had been thinking with [homesick] remembrance of that country from which they were emigrants, they would have found constant opportunity to return to it.**

It can be difficult at times, in the midst of seasons in our life, struggles and worries about provision etc. Stress, anxiousness about situations you are currently facing...also, desiring to please God, knowing and doing what is righteous or righteous can leave us in limbo at times... so what should we do? How can I face these situations with the right mindset?

In 1 Corinthians 2:16, Paul quotes Isaiah 40:13 and then makes a statement concerning all believers: **“We have the mind of Christ.”** Having the mind of Christ means sharing the plan, purpose, and perspective of Christ, and it is something that all believers can possess.

### **1 Corinthians 2:16 AMPC**

*16 For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.*

The “Never Wrong” Prophet Isaiah foretelling of John the Baptist and John would have the mind of Christ...fulfilling his Role in **“preparing the way of the Lord”**

### **Isaiah 40:1-14 AMPC**

*1 Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.*

*2 Speak tenderly to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry to her that her time of service and her warfare are ended, that [her punishment is accepted and] her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received [punishment] from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.*

**3 A voice of one who cries: Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth in the desert a highway for our God!**

*4 Every valley shall be lifted and filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked and uneven shall be made straight and level, and the rough places a plain.*

*5 And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*

*6 A voice says, Cry [prophecy]! And I said, What shall I cry? [The voice answered, Proclaim:] All flesh is as frail as grass, and all that makes it attractive [its kindness, its goodwill, its mercy from God, its glory and comeliness, however good] is transitory, like the flower of the field.*

*7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely [all] the people are like grass.*

8 *The [a]grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

9 *O you who bring good tidings to Zion, get up to the high mountain. O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, Behold your God!*

10 *Behold, the Lord God will come with might, and His arm will rule for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.*

11 *He will feed His flock like a shepherd: He will gather the lambs in His arm, He will carry them in His bosom and will gently lead those that have their young.*

12 *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, marked off the heavens with a [nine-inch] span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?*

**13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him?**

14 *With whom did He take counsel, that instruction might be given Him? Who taught Him the path of justice and taught Him knowledge and showed Him the way of understanding?*

How does man know of these “things”? How does the “Never Wrong” Prophet know of things in the future? How will and did John know what the plan was for his life? How did he rightly identify that “this was that” when He saw Jesus? He had the mind of Christ or the Word in him.

**Note:** Having the mind of Christ? How? Remember, Jesus is the Word.

**John 1:1 AMPC**

*1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.*

**Psalm 119:11 KJV**

*11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

**Psalm 119:11 AMPC**

*11 Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*

**Psalm 119:11 GNT**

*11 I keep your law in my heart, so that I will not sin against you.*

**John 14:15 KJV**

*15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

**Luke 6:45 KJV**

*45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

How can I have the mind of Christ? What area(s) in my life do I need the mind of Christ right now? Where in God’s Word is the answer? Remember, the answer may not be the easiest thing to do in the natural.

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Having the mind of Christ doesn’t mean life will be perfect - it means we are going to endure some “things”, our faith will be tested and for all of us who are following Christ or imitators the Promise will never be fully received until we see Him face to face... the is how Paul finishes up telling you and I about the people in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11.

**Hebrews 11:32-40 AMPC**

32 *And what shall I say further? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,*

33 *Who by [the help of] faith subdued kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promised blessings, closed the mouths of lions,*

34 *Extinguished the power of raging fire, escaped the devourings of the sword, out of frailty and weakness won strength and became stalwart, even mighty and resistless in battle, routing alien hosts.*

35 *[Some] women received again their dead by a resurrection. Others were tortured [a]to death with clubs, refusing to accept release [offered on the terms of denying their faith], so that they might be resurrected to a better life.*

36 *Others had to suffer the trial of mocking and scourging and even chains and imprisonment.*

37 *They were stoned to death; they were lured with tempting offers [to renounce their faith]; they were sawn asunder; they were slaughtered by the sword; [while they were alive] they had to go about wrapped in the skins of sheep and goats, utterly destitute, oppressed, cruelly treated—*

38 *[Men] of whom the world was not worthy—roaming over the desolate places and the mountains, and [living] in caves and caverns and holes of the earth.*

**39 And all of these, though they won divine approval by [means of] their faith, did not receive the fulfillment of what was promised,**

**40 Because God had us in mind and had something better and greater in view for us, so that they [these heroes and heroines of faith] should not come to perfection apart from us [before we could join them].**

In other words, the Hall of Faith can include the present readers if they will also exercise the same faith. In fact, the heroes of the faith will not experience all God intends for them until all of God's plan has been completed, which includes the readers of Hebrews at that time and even today. The testimony of those in the Hall of faith should encourage all of us to keep going, to stay locked into His Word, be obedient regardless of what we are facing or feeling. God is faithful and always has been.

**John 6:63 AMPC**

63 It is the Spirit Who gives life [He is the Life-giver]; **the flesh conveys no benefit whatever [there is no profit in it].** The words (truths) that I have been speaking to you are spirit and life.

**John 6:63 KJV**

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; **the flesh profiteth nothing:** the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

**Philippians 4:8 AMPC**

8 For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is **anything** worthy of praise, **think on** and weigh and take account of **these things** [fix your minds on them].

All of these “heroes of faith” in the Hall of Faith should be an inspiration and Hebrews 12:2 gives us a great example of Jesus Himself on how we are to live.

**Hebrews 12:1-13 AMPC**

1 Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses **[who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us,** and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence **the appointed course of the race that is set before us,**

**2 Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

3 *Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds.*

4 *You have not yet struggled and fought agonizingly against sin, nor have you yet resisted and withstood to the point of pouring out your [own] blood.*

5 *And have you [completely] forgotten the divine word of appeal and encouragement in which you are reasoned with and addressed as sons? My son, do not think lightly or scorn to submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage and give up and faint when you are reprov'd or corrected by Him;*

**6 For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes.**

**7 You must submit to and endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train and correct and discipline?**

8 *Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all].*

9 *Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we yielded [to them] and respected [them for training us]. Shall we not much more cheerfully submit to the Father of spirits and so [truly] live?*

10 *For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness.*

**11 For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness—in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God].**

*12 **So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right** your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees,*

*13 And **cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths** for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.*

Wow! Paul in writing not just for the follower's of Jesus back then but for today as well is telling us through the Holy Spirit not only "we can do this" but also "how we can do this". We need to know the Word, believe the Word, study the Word, remember the Word and understand that you and I can have the mind of Christ in all situations if we choose to do these "things".

**Note:** It is vital when studying the Hall of Faith and in our series about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (and their descendants) the mindset they had of how to live and speak by faith.

**Hebrews 11:6 AMPC**

*6 But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him*

**Romans 10:17 AMPC**

*17 So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).*

If your pastor, preacher teacher is not teaching about sin, judgment or righteousness they are not preaching and teaching about faith according to God's Word...it is impossible to separate the two, faith / obedience.

**James 2:26 AMPC**

*26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.*



Having the mind of Christ means understanding God's plan in the world, He has told us from the beginning His Plan and what will happen in the end. His Plan was to make a way by providing salvation for sinners.

This means we identify with Christ's purpose "to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). It means we share Jesus' perspective of humility and obedience (Philippians 2:5-8), compassion (Matthew 9:36), and prayerful dependence on God (Luke 5:16).

In the verses leading up to 1 Corinthians 2:16, these are just a few of the truths concerning the mind of Christ:

### **1 Corinthians 2:16 AMPC**

16 For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.

1. The mind of Christ stands in sharp contrast to the wisdom of man (verse 5-6).

### **1 Corinthians 2:5-6 AMPC**

**5 So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men (human philosophy), but in the power of God.**

**6 Yet when we are among the full-grown (spiritually mature Christians who are ripe in understanding), we do impart a [higher] wisdom (the knowledge of the divine plan previously hidden); but it is indeed not a wisdom of this present age or of this world nor of the leaders and rulers of this age, who are being brought to nothing and are doomed to pass away.**

- 2) The mind of Christ involves wisdom from God, once hidden but now revealed (verse 7).

### **1 Corinthians 2:7 AMPC**

7 But rather what we are setting forth is a **wisdom of God once hidden [from the human understanding] and now revealed to us by God—** [that wisdom] which God devised and decreed before the ages for our glorification [to lift us into the glory of His presence].

- 3) The mind of Christ is given to believers through the Spirit of God (verses 10-12).

### **1 Corinthians 2:10-12 AMPC**

10 Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit, for the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [the [a]divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny].

11 For what person perceives (knows and understands) what passes through a man's thoughts except the man's own spirit within him? **Just so no one discerns (comes to know and comprehend) the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**

12 Now we have not received the spirit [that belongs to] the world, but the [Holy] Spirit Who is from God, [given to us] that we might realize and comprehend and appreciate the gifts [of divine favor and blessing so freely and lavishly] bestowed on us by God.

- 4) The mind of Christ cannot be understood by those without the Spirit (verse 14).

### **1 Corinthians 2:14 AMPC**

14 **But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God,** for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.

- 5) The mind of Christ gives believers discernment in spiritual matters (verse 15).

### **1 Corinthians 2:15 AMPC**

*15 But the spiritual man tries all things [he [a]examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, **and discerns all things**], yet is himself to be put on trial and judged by no one [he can read the meaning of everything, but no one can properly discern or appraise or get an insight into him].*

Abraham realized the importance of understanding God's plan, not just his own life but for everyone that went before him and all those who were to follow. Abraham at age 75 said, I will be that example and where ever you lead me I will follow and be a living sacrifice unto your plan and purpose. The altar Abram (ham) built in the physical is the spiritual altar or living sacrifice we are to lay on daily as we realize and understand I am here for God's Pleasure or to do what is right/righteous according to the One who created me.

In part 5 we left off at where Lot chose what/where/how was most profitable for him to live in the natural even though it was in the midst of what was wicked and we will find out his wife got used to it and longed for that wickedness.

### **Genesis 13:10-18 AMPC**

*10 **And Lot looked and saw that everywhere the Jordan Valley was well watered. Before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, [it was all] like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as you go to Zoar.***

*11 **Then Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley and [he] traveled east. So they separated.***

*12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the [Jordan] Valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom and dwelt there.*

*13 **But the men of Sodom were wicked and exceedingly great sinners against the Lord.***

*14 The Lord said to Abram after Lot had left him, Lift up now your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;*

*15 For all the land which you see I will give to you and to your posterity forever.*

*16 And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so that if a man could count the dust of the earth, then could your descendants also be counted.*

*17 Arise, walk through the land, the length of it and the breadth of it, for I will give it to you.*

*18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt among the oaks or terebinths of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and built there an altar to the Lord.*

Genesis chapter 14 describes a war between a coalition of eastern and western kings. During this war, Abraham's nephew Lot was captured and imprisoned. With only 318 armed servants and a coalition of Amorite allies, Abraham defeated a coalition of four enemy armies and freed Lot. We also see the foreshadowing of communion and a financial offering or sacrifice. This is the acknowledgment of “it all belongs to God” and every “thing” is from and by Him.

### **Genesis 14 AMPC**

*1 In the days of the kings Amraphel of Shinar, Arioch of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer of Elam, and Tidal of Goiim,*

*2 They made war on the kings Bera of Sodom, Birsha of Gomorrah, Shinab of Admah, Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, [a]that is, Zoar.*

*3 The latter kings joined together [as allies] in the Valley of Siddim, which is [now] the [Dead] Sea of Salt.*

*4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.*

*5 And in the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him attacked and subdued the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,*

*6 And the Horites in their Mount Seir as far as El-paran, which is on the border of the wilderness.*

7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat, which [now] is Kadesh, and subdued all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazazon-tamar.

8 Then the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela, that is, Zoar, went out and [together] they joined battle [with those kings] in the Valley of Siddim,

9 With the kings Chedorlaomer of Elam, Tidal of Goiim, Amraphel of Shinar, and Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five.

10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of slime or bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell (were overthrown) there and the remainder [of the kings] fled to the mountain.

**11 [The victors] took all the wealth of Sodom and Gomorrah and all the supply of provisions and departed.**

**12 And they also took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods away with them.**

**13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew [one from the other side], who was living by the oaks or terebinths of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshcol and of Aner—these were allies of Abram.**

**14 When Abram heard that [his nephew] had been captured, he armed (led forth) the 318 trained servants born in his own house and pursued the enemy as far as Dan.**

15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and attacked and routed them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

**16 And he brought back all the goods and also brought back his kinsman Lot and his possessions, the women also and the people.**

17 After his [Abram's] return from the defeat and slaying of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh, that is, the King's Valley.

**18 Melchizedek king of Salem [later called Jerusalem] brought out bread and wine [for their nourishment]; he was the priest of God Most High,**

**19 And he blessed him and said, Blessed (favored with blessings, made blissful, joyful) be Abram by God Most High, Possessor and Maker of heaven and earth,**

20 And blessed, praised, and glorified be God Most High, Who has given your foes into your hand! And [Abram] gave him a tenth of all [he had taken].

21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons and keep the goods for yourself.

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted up my hand and sworn to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor and Maker of heaven and earth,

23 That I would not take a thread or a shoelace or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich.

24 [Take all] except only what my young men have eaten and the share of the men [allies] who went with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Remember, the Jewish people know these stories at the time of Christ (John 8). Jesus and Paul were speaking about Abraham because they were teaching from what the crowd already believed to be true.

The Bible tells us that Abraham brings all to God and Melchizedek was a forerunner or foreshadowing of Jesus. He was the Priest and Mayor of Jerusalem. Abram is foreshadowing not only communion but the financial offering or sacrifice. This is the acknowledgment of “it all belongs to God” and every “thing” is from and by Him.

The overview of this chapter is: Abram, whose name has not yet been changed to Abraham by God, is met by two kings – the king of Sodom, who is there to make a deal with Abram in order to get his subjects back and this mysterious king of Salem named Melchizedek.

This is the first and only time that Melchizedek appears in the Old Testament until we find a reference to him in Psalm 110 that we’ll look at in a moment. We know nothing about where he came from or where he goes after this. But we do know that he is unique among all the kings mentioned in the Bible because he is a priest, as well as a king or Mayor of Salem or Jerusalem.

His name means “king of righteousness” and he is the king of Salem -the name that Jerusalem was know by at that time – which means “peace”. So he is the king of righteousness and the king of peace and Melchizedek brings bread and wine to offer to Abram which is the connection to the Lord’s Supper.

Bible scholars are pretty much evenly split on whether this is a pre incarnate appearance of Jesus or whether he is an actual human king who is a “type” of Jesus. In the Bible a “type” is an actual historical event or person that is ordained by God to be a prophetic picture of something or someone later brought to fruition by a sovereign God. One of the best known types in the Bible would be Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice of his own son Isaac, which is a type of the fact that God would one day sacrifice His own Son on our behalf.

Either way, what we find here is that Melchizedek brings a blessing to Abram from God and that he accompanies that blessing with bread and wine (non fermented grape juice). In turn, Abram gave all his possessions to Melchizedek to as an offering (tithe at minimum) in order for he and those “things” to be blessed. The only amount that was retained was that to live on ad this is actually the first reference to a tithe or offering in the Bible and it is important to note that it occurs long before God gives the law to His people through Moses. So this is completely a voluntary offering on Abram’s part.

The priest Melchizedek appears in three sections of Scripture. He is introduced in Genesis 14:18–20. In a messianic psalm (Psalm 110:4), David addresses the “order of Melchizedek” specifically: after describing the victory and glory of the Messiah in the future, David says,

**Psalm 110:1-5 AMPC**

*1 The Lord (God) says to my Lord (the Messiah), Sit at My right hand, until I make Your adversaries Your footstool.*

*2 The Lord will send forth from Zion the scepter of Your strength; rule, then, in the midst of Your foes.*

*3 Your people will offer themselves willingly in the day of Your power, in the beauty of holiness and in holy array out of the womb of the morning; to You [will spring forth] Your young men, who are as the dew.*

*4 The Lord has sworn and will not revoke or change it: You are a priest forever, after the manner and order of Melchizedek.*

*5 The Lord at Your right hand will shatter kings in the day of His indignation.*

Then Paul writes in Hebrews, speaking of Christ, quotes this verse from Psalm 110 in Hebrews 7:17.

### **Hebrews 7:10-17 AMPC**

*10 For he was still in the loins of his forefather [Abraham] when Melchizedek met him [Abraham].*

*11 Now if perfection (a perfect fellowship between God and the worshiper) had been attainable by the Levitical priesthood—for under it the people were given the Law—why was it further necessary that there should arise another and different kind of Priest, one after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one appointed after the order and rank of Aaron?*

*12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is of necessity an alteration of the law [concerning the priesthood] as well.*

*13 For the One of Whom these things are said belonged [not to the priestly line but] to another tribe, no member of which has officiated at the altar.*

*14 For it is obvious that our Lord sprang from the tribe of Judah, and Moses mentioned nothing about priests in connection with that tribe.*

*15 And this becomes more plainly evident when another Priest arises Who bears the likeness of Melchizedek,*

*16 Who has been constituted a Priest, not on the basis of a bodily legal requirement [an externally imposed command concerning His physical ancestry], but on the basis of the power of an endless and indestructible Life.*

*17 For it is witnessed of Him, You are a Priest forever after the order (with the rank) of Melchizedek.*



Genesis provides background regarding the identity of Melchizedek, Psalm 110 connects Melchizedek to the Messiah, and Hebrews chapters 5, 6, and 7 describe the supremacy of Jesus as the Great High Priest, using Melchizedek's role as an illustration of Jesus' priesthood and kingship.

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