

Romans 4:17

as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Detailed breakdown:

- **Genre of Romans:**

_____ (letter), using _____ and _____ literature.

- **Author / Audience:**

_____ / The _____ church in _____.

- **When was it written / where was it written from**

Late _____ AD – early _____ AD (during Paul’s 3rd missionary journey) / _____

- **Culture:**

It was a major commercial center, home to a diverse population. Heavily influenced by Greek and Roman traditions. Religions included various local cults, worship of Isis and Serapis, and the imperial cult that worships the emperor and his family

- **Languages:**

Primarily Koine Greek with some Doric Greek, Jews commonly used Aramaic

How have you heard passage used before?

What do you think this passage means??

Context of Romans 4:

The context of Romans 4 is salvation by faith.

Paul uses the example of the patriarch Abraham to show how our relationship with God is based on faith and not the works of the Law. Romans 4:17 states, “As it is written: ‘I have made you a father of many nations.’ [Abraham] is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.”

- Romans 4:17, it emphasizes God's ability to bring about what was previously impossible, like Abraham's descendants becoming a great nation, despite his advanced age and Sarah's barrenness.
- The phrase "calls into being things that were not" refers to God's capacity to bring into existence something that did not previously exist, often through a word or a divine command.

Example Genesis 1:1

_____	_____	_____	_____
bə-rê-šît	bā-rā	ě-lō-hîm;	'êt
_____	_____	_____	
haš-šā-ma-yim	wə-'êt	hā-'ā-reš.	

Back to Romans 4:17

The phrase can also be used metaphorically to describe any situation where something unexpected or impossible is brought about, often through a powerful belief or a divine intervention.

In essence, "calls into being things that were not" highlights the concept of creation, resurrection, and the power of God to bring about things that were previously non-existent, often through faith and divine action.

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Detailed breakdown:

- **Genre of Romans:**

Epistle. (letter) using hortatory and expository literature.

- **Author / Audience:**

Paul the Apostle / The Christian church in Rome

- **When was it written / where was it written from**

Late 55 AD – early 57 AD (during Paul’s 3rd missionary journey) / Corinth

- **Culture:**

It was a major commercial center, home to a diverse population. Heavily influenced by Greek and Roman traditions. Religions included various local cults, worship of Isis and Serapis, and the imperial cult that worships the emperor and his family

- **Languages:**

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What do you think this passage means??

Example Genesis 1:1

<u>In (the) beginning</u>	<u>created</u>	<u>God</u>	<u>(direct object marker)</u>
bə-rê-šîṭ	bā-rā	ě-lō-hîm;	’êṭ
<u>the heavens</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>the Earth</u>	
haš-šā-ma-yim	wə-’êṭ	hā-’ā-reṣ.	