

## I. What does the original say, and what does the modernization say?

Coxe's Original Words:

“And the covenant is said to be mercy to Abraham, and truth to Jacob; (Micah 7:20) intimating the beginning of it to be with Abraham which was of mere grace and mercy, though when once made with him, the truth and faithfulness of God was engaged to make it good to the succeeding heirs thereof: *not but that the covenant of grace as made with Abraham was the same for substance*, that had been more darkly revealed in the ages before, but it pleased God to transact it with him as he had not done with any before him.”

RBAP Modernization:

“The covenant is said to be mercy to Abraham and truth to Jacob (Micah 7:20). This intimates that the beginning of it with Abraham was of mere grace and mercy, though once made with him, the truth and faithfulness of God was engaged to make it good to its succeeding heirs. *The covenant of grace made with Abraham was not the same for substance* that had been more darkly revealed in the ages before, but it pleased God to transact it with him as he had not done with any before him.”

## II. What does the phrase “not but that” mean?

*Oxford English Dictionary* entry for “not but (that)”:

18. not but (that), elliptically = ‘it is not but that’; or perh. sometimes ‘not to say but that’

- 1641 R. Greville *Disc. Nature Episcopacie* ii. i. 67 Not but that they were most worthy men.
- 1717 Pope *Disc. Pastoral Poetry* in *Wks.* 8 Not but he [sc. Spenser] may be thought imperfect on some few points.
- 1768 I. Bickerstaff *Lionel & Clarissa* i. i, Not but your father had good qualities.
- 1888 *N.E.D.* at But, Mod. Not but that I should have gone if I had had the chance.

“Not but that” means “which is not to deny...”

## III. Suggested Revision

“The covenant is said to be mercy to Abraham and truth to Jacob (Micah 7:20). This intimates that the beginning of it with Abraham was of mere grace and mercy, though once made with him, the truth and faithfulness of God was engaged to make it good to its succeeding heirs. *This is not to deny<sup>1</sup> that the covenant of grace made with Abraham was the same for substance* that had been more darkly revealed in the ages before, *but to say that* it pleased God to transact it with him as he had not done with any before him.”

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<sup>1</sup> If you like, reverse the double negative, and it reads “Though the covenant of grace made with Abraham was the same for substance...as before...yet it pleased God to transact it with him as he had not done with any before him.”