

# **ROMANS 4:14-25**

## **GOD'S PROMISE GUARANTEED**

**AS WE CONTINUE IN ROMANS, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT WE ASK OURSELVES WHY PAUL CONTINUES TO POINT TO ABRAHAM.**

**ANYTIME WE SEE SOMETHING THAT IS A RECURRING THEME IT DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION.**

**AND AS WE DO OUR BEST TO DISSECT AND INTERPRET WHAT PAUL IS WRITING WE MUST DO SO USING THE RULES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE.**

**THE FIRST RULE IS THAT IT MUST BE READ AND UNDERSTOOD AS IT WAS MEANT FOR THE ORIGINAL READERS.**

**THAT MEANS THAT WHEN WE READ ROMANS, WE READ IT AS IT WAS INTENDED, WHICH WAS FOR THE CHURCH IN ROME.**

**THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE DON'T APPLY THE SAME PRINCIPALS SET FORTH TO OUR OWN LIFE, BUT WE MUST UNDERSTAND IT WAS MEANT FOR A SPECIFIC GROUP OF PEOPLE.**

**THIS IS THE REASON THAT PAUL GOES INTO GREAT DETAIL CONCERNING ABRAHAM.**

**MANY OF HIS READERS WERE JEWISH CONVERTS, MEN AND WOMEN RAISED TO BELIEVE IN THE LAW AND THAT THEIR SALVATION WAS GUARANTEED BECAUSE OF THE FACT THEY HAD BEEN BORN FROM THE LINE OF ABRAHAM.**

**PAUL IS CORRECTING FLAWED THEOLOGY.**

**TODAY WE WILL SEE PAUL POINT TO A SPECIFIC PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM.**

**A PROMISE GUARANTEED BY GOD HIMSELF.**

**ROMANS 4:13**

***<sup>13</sup> FOR THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD BE THE HEIR OF THE WORLD WAS NOT TO ABRAHAM OR TO HIS SEED THROUGH THE LAW, BUT THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH.***

FIRST, WE NEED TO ESTABLISH WHAT THE PROMISE IS.

THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM IS FOUND IN GENESIS 12:3

**GENESIS 12:3**

***<sup>3</sup> I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU,  
AND I WILL CURSE HIM WHO CURSES YOU;  
AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL  
BE BLESSED."***

WHEN WE LOOK CLOSELY AT THE PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM, WE WILL SEE FOUR VERY IMPORTANT FACTORS IMMERGE.

FIRST, WE SEE THAT PROMISE INVOLVED A LAND IN WHICH ABRAHAM WOULD LIVE BUT WOULD NOT BE POSSESSED UNTIL SOME FIVE CENTURIES LATER WHEN JOSHUA LED THE ISRAELITES TO CONQUER CANAAN.

**GENESIS 15:18-21**

***<sup>18</sup> ON THE SAME DAY THE LORD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAM, SAYING:***

***"TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I HAVE GIVEN THIS LAND, FROM THE RIVER OF EGYPT TO THE GREAT RIVER, THE RIVER EUPHRATES— <sup>19</sup> THE KENITES, THE KENEZZITES, THE KADMONITES, <sup>20</sup> THE HITTITES, THE PERIZZITES, THE REPHAIM, <sup>21</sup> THE AMORITES, THE CANAANITES, THE GIRGASHITES, AND THE JEBUSITES."***

GOD IS SPEAKING ABOUT A SPECIFIC AREA OF LAND

THE SECOND FACTOR IS, THE PROMISE INVOLVED A PEOPLE.

**GENESIS 13:16**

***16 AND I WILL MAKE YOUR DESCENDANTS AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH; SO THAT IF A MAN COULD NUMBER THE DUST OF THE EARTH, THEN YOUR DESCENDANTS ALSO COULD BE NUMBERED.***

GOD IS PROMISING THAT FROM ABRAHAM WOULD COME A NATION OF PEOPLE.

AND LATER IN GENESIS 17 GOD WOULD TELL ABRAHAM THAT HE WOULD BECOME THE FATHER TO MANY NATIONS.

THE LAST ASPECT OF THE PROMISE IS TWOFOLD.

GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM THAT THROUGH HIS DESCENDANTS THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE BLESSED, THAT BLESSING WOULD COME IN THE FORM OF A REDEEMER THAT WOULD OFFER SALVATION.

**GENESIS 12:3**

***3 I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU,  
AND I WILL CURSE HIM WHO CURSES YOU;  
AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL  
BE BLESSED."***

THROUGH ABRAHAM ALL OF THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED...

AND HOW IS THAT?

BECAUSE FROM THE LINE OF ABRAHAM THE MESSIAH WOULD COME.

**JOHN 3:16**

***16 FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.***

JOHN 3:16 IS THE FULFILMENT OF GENESIS 12:3

THE COMMON THREAD THAT IS WOVEN ALL THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE IS JESUS CHRIST.

THE MESSIAH, THE ONE THAT BY HIS BLOOD WE ARE SAVED, THE ONE THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US.

THE SON OF GOD, THE ONLY ONE WORTHY TO OPEN THE SCROLL, THE ONE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER WHO IS CONSTANTLY INTERCEDING FOR US.

***GALATIANS 3:8***

***<sup>8</sup> AND THE SCRIPTURE, FORESEEING THAT GOD WOULD JUSTIFY THE GENTILES BY FAITH, PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO ABRAHAM BEFOREHAND, SAYING, "IN YOU ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED."***

WE CAN SEE THROUGH WHAT PAUL SAYS IN GALATIANS THAT ABRAHAM UNDERSTOOD THAT THROUGH HIS LINEAGE A MESSIAH WOULD COME.

EVEN JESUS HIMSELF REFERRED TO THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ABRAHAM HAD OF HIS COMING.

***JOHN 8:56***

***<sup>56</sup> YOUR FATHER ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY, AND HE SAW IT AND WAS GLAD."***

ALL OF THESE THINGS GIVE US INSIGHT INTO THE FACT THAT ABRAHAM UNDERSTOOD GOD'S PROMISE BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY HE BELIEVED THAT GOD WOULD FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS PROMISE.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT GOD'S PROMISE WAS GUARANTEED.

AND IT'S NOT AS IF GOD MADE ALL THESE PROMISES AT ONE TIME EITHER.

IT WAS OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL YEARS, WHICH SHOWS ABRAHAM'S PERSISTENT FAITH AS WELL AS HIM MATURING IN HIS FAITH.

AND OVER THE COURSE OF THOSE YEARS ABRAHAM HAD MULTIPLE FAILURES, AND WHY IS THAT?

**BECAUSE JUST LIKE US HE IS HUMAN, I TRULY BELIEVE ALL THESE ARE INCLUDED IN THE SCRIPTURE TO MAKE HIM RELATABLE TO US AND ALL THE READERS OF GOD'S WORD.**

**IT SHOWS US THAT HE IS A REAL PERSON JUST LIKE YOU AND I WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT.**

**IT HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH WHEN WE CAN SEE THE FATHERS OF THE FAITH WERE JUST AS HUMAN AND JUST AS FLAWED AS WE ARE.**

**IT GIVES US HOPE TO KNOW DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE ARE GUILTY SINNERS WE ARE STILL COVERED BY GOD'S GRACE AND COUNTED AS RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH.**

***ROMANS 4:13***

***13 FOR THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD BE THE HEIR OF THE WORLD WAS NOT TO ABRAHAM OR TO HIS SEED THROUGH THE LAW, BUT THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH.***

**NOTICE THE WORD SEED IS SINGULAR; IT DOESN'T SAY SEEDS...**

**PAUL WRITES IN GALATIANS 3:16....**

***GALATIANS 3:16***

***16 NOW TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED WERE THE PROMISES MADE. HE DOES NOT SAY, "AND TO SEEDS," AS OF MANY, BUT AS OF ONE, "AND TO YOUR SEED," WHO IS CHRIST.***

**IT'S AS IF PAUL IS GIVING US COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

**CLARIFYING EXACTLY WHAT WAS MEANT BY SCRIPTURE THAT WAS WRITTEN OVER 1400 YEARS PRIOR TO THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.**

**WHICH IS NOTEWORTHY, REMEMBER PRIOR TO PAUL'S CONVERSION HE WAS A PHARISEE WHICH MEANS HE WOULD'VE HAD THE PENTATEUCH COMMITTED TO MEMORY.**

**HE WAS BEING PREPARED TO BE THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.**

**AND WE ALL HAVE THAT COMMON.**

**GOD HAS BEEN PREPARING EACH ONE OF US FOR THE MISSION HE HAS PLACED ON OUR LIFE SINCE WE WERE BORN.**

**EVERY TRIAL, EVERY DIFFICULT MOMENT, EVERY FAILURE ALL ORCHESTRATED OR ALLOWED TO HAPPEN TO HELP SHAPE AND MOLD YOU INTO THE PERSON YOU'RE MEANT TO BE.**

**THE QUESTION IS ARE YOU PLIABLE?**

**ARE YOU ALLOWING YOUR CREATOR TO MOLD YOU?**

**I THINK ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLAY AND STONE.**

**CLAY IS MALLEABLE, IT CAN BE SHAPED AND MOLDED SIMPLY BY USING SOME WATER AND YOUR HANDS, BUT IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE IT MUST GO THROUGH A PROCESS OF BEING COOKED IN AN OVEN.**

**IT MUST UNDERGO FIRE TO BRING IT TO THE POINT THAT IT CAN BE HARDENED.**

**STONE HOWEVER IS ALREADY HARD, BUT YOU NEED TOOLS OF STEEL TO CHIP AWAY AT THE STONE IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE SHAPED.**

**I THINK OF THESE TWO EXAMPLES AND IT MAKES ME THINK ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHRISTIANS.**

**THE CLAY IS PEOPLE THAT ARE WILLING TO BE SHAPED AND MOLDED BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T COME WITHOUT HAVING TO FACE THE FIRE.**

**THE STONE ARE THOSE OF US THAT HARDHEADED, INSTEAD OF ALLOWING GOD TO SHAPE AND MOLD US WE FIGHT HIM.**

**WE ARE RESISTANT AND HE MUST USE TOOLS ON US TO SHAPE US WHICH IS A PAINFUL AND LONG ARDUOUS PROCESS.**

THE POINT IS EITHER WAY IS GOING TO COME WITH DIFFICULTIES AND PAIN BUT IF YOU ARE WILLING THE MOLDING PROCESS IS MUCH EASIER.

ME PERSONALLY, I WAS THE STONE.

GOD HAD TO CHIP AWAY AT ME PIECE BY PIECE TO GET ME WHERE I AM TODAY AND THAT PROCESS IS ONGOING.

SO THE QUESTION WE MUST ASK OURSELVES IS ARE WE ALLOWING OUR CREATOR TO USE OUR PAST TO SHAPE US?

OR ARE YOU USING THE DIFFICULTIES YOU'VE FACED TO LOCK YOU INTO THE PAST?

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM A WOE IS ME VICTIM MENTALITY?

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THE WORLD IS PROMOTING RIGHT NOW.

EVERY PERSON IN THIS ROOM HAS BEEN HURT, EVERY PERSON IN THIS ROOM HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED AND LET DOWN.

SOME OF US BY THE PEOPLE WE CARE MOST ABOUT.

BUT AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE CALLED TO RISE ABOVE THE DIFFICULT THINGS AND FACE THEM HEAD ON.

YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR PAST, THAT'S A FACT BUT YOU CAN ABSOLUTELY CONTROL HOW YOU REACT TO YOUR PAST.

***ROMANS 4:13***

***<sup>13</sup> FOR THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD BE THE HEIR OF THE WORLD WAS NOT TO ABRAHAM OR TO HIS SEED THROUGH THE LAW, BUT THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH.***

AGAIN, PAUL REITERATES THAT THIS PROMISE OF BLESSING WASN'T THROUGH THE LAW BUT THROUGH ABRAHAM'S FAITH.

***ROMANS 4:14***

***<sup>14</sup> FOR IF THOSE WHO ARE OF THE LAW ARE HEIRS, FAITH IS MADE VOID AND THE PROMISE MADE OF NO EFFECT,***

IF MEN COULD PERFECTLY KEEP THE LAW, THEN THEY WOULD INDEED BE HEIRS OF GOD, BUT AS WE KNOW THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT IF THAT WERE TRUE THEN IT WOULD MAKE FAITH VOID AND THEREBY NULLIFY GOD'S PROMISE.

THAT WOULD MEAN THE EXPECTATION WOULD BE THAT MAN WAS CAPABLE OF KEEPING THE LAW AND THEREFORE IF THEY KEPT IT THEY WOULD BE SAVED AND IF NOT THEY WOULD BE CONDEMNED.

FAITH GUARANTEES ANYTHING THAT GOD HAS PROMISED.

IF ON THE OTHER HAND GODS PROMISES WERE ONLY ABLE TO BE RECEIVED THROUGH OBEDIENCE TO A LAW THAT NEITHER ABRAHAM NOR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER COULD NEVER KEEP THEN FAITH WOULD BE CANCELLED.

ESSENTIALLY GODS PROMISE WOULD BE NULLIFIED FROM THE BEGINNING.

VERSE 15 TELLS US...

***ROMANS 4:15***

***<sup>15</sup> BECAUSE THE LAW BRINGS ABOUT WRATH; FOR WHERE THERE IS NO LAW THERE IS NO TRANSGRESSION.***

THE LAW BRINGS ABOUT WRATH BY EXPOSING MANS SINFULNESS.

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

THE POINT TO ALL OF THIS IS TO COMBAT RELIGION.

TO DESTROY IDEOLOGIES THAT WERE CONSTRUCTS OF MAN.

AND I HAVE TO WONDER HOW ANY OF THESE PEOPLE EVER THOUGHT THAT LAW COULD SAVE THEM KNOWING THAT WERE ALL GUILTY OF BREAKING IT.

I GUESS IT'S THE SAME WE JUSTIFY OUR SIN TODAY.



**THE SAME WAY WE MINIMALIZE THE THINGS THAT WE DO.**

**ONE OF THE GREATEST ARGUMENTS I HEAR TODAY IS....**

**“WELL, I’M NOT HURTING ANYONE”**

**AND THAT’S JUST NOT TRUE, OUR SIN HURTS US AND IT HURTS OUR FAMILY AND THOSE WE CARE ABOUT.**

**JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT BE PHYSICALLY HURTING SOMEONE DOESN’T MEAN THAT THEY AREN’T AFFECTED BY YOUR SIN.**

**I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT JUST LIVING IN THAT MINDSET IS A LIE IN AND OF ITSELF.**

**PAUL IS COMBATING ALL OF THIS RELIGION AND IDEAS OF THE LAW WITH THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.**

**THE FACT THAT THE WRATH OF GOD WILL BE POURED OUT ON THE UNRIGHTEOUS AND THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW.**

**TO REVEAL WE ARE ALL INCAPABLE AND UNWORTHY AND IN DESPERATE NEED OF A SAVIOR.**

**WHICH SHOULD IN TURN DRIVE US DIRECTLY INTO THE ARMS OF JESUS.**

**WE MUST STAND FIRMLY AND BOLDLY ON THE TRUTH THAT IS THE WORD OF GOD.**

**NOT RUN FROM IT.**

**EVEN WHEN IT HURTS OR IS DIFFICULT.**

**IN FACT IT’S SUPPOSED TO HURT, THAT’S THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW.**

**TO CONVICT US OF SIN.**

**ROMANS 4:15**

***15 BECAUSE THE LAW BRINGS ABOUT WRATH; FOR WHERE THERE IS NO LAW THERE IS NO TRANSGRESSION.***

**NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE SECOND HALF OF THIS VERSE...**

**"FOR WHERE THERE IS NO LAW THERE IS NO TRANSGRESSION"**

**SO WHY WOULD PAUL WRITE IT THIS WAY?**

**BECAUSE WE KNOW THERE IS LAW, RIGHT?**

**WE MUST LOOK AT IT WITHIN THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT IS WRITTEN.**

**PAUL IS SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ABRAHAM IN THIS SECTION.**

**HAD THE LAW BEEN GIVEN YET?**

**No!**

**THE MOSAIC LAW WOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO GODS PEOPLE UNTIL 430 YEARS AFTER THE PROMISES MADE TO ABRAHAM.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN ALL KINDS OF SINFUL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS MIGHT GO UNNOTICED BY MAN BECAUSE THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC COMMANDMENT THAT WAS VIOLATED.**

**BUT WHEN THE LAW COMES IN, THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN EXPLODES.**

**WHAT WAS LYING DEAD, AS IT WERE, IS BROUGHT TO LIGHT AS A SPECIFIC VIOLATION OR TRANSGRESSION OF AN EXPLICIT COMMAND.**

**YES, MEN HAD THE LAW WRITTEN ON HEARTS AND YES THEY HAD A CONSCIENCE TO CONVICT THEM BUT NO EXPLICIT COMMANDS HAD BEEN GIVEN YET.**

**THIS IS WHAT PAUL WRITES TO THE CHURCH IN GALATIA**

***GALATIANS 3:21-23***

***21 IS THE LAW THEN AGAINST THE PROMISES OF GOD? CERTAINLY NOT! FOR IF THERE HAD BEEN A LAW GIVEN WHICH COULD HAVE GIVEN LIFE, TRULY RIGHTEOUSNESS WOULD HAVE BEEN BY THE LAW. 22 BUT THE SCRIPTURE HAS CONFINED ALL UNDER SIN, THAT THE PROMISE BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST MIGHT BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE. 23 BUT BEFORE FAITH CAME, WE WERE KEPT UNDER GUARD BY THE LAW, <sup>[E]</sup>KEPT FOR THE FAITH WHICH WOULD AFTERWARD BE REVEALED.***

**BEFORE THE FAITH CAME?**

**I THOUGHT ABRAHAM WAS CREDITED RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH?**

**HE WAS BUT HIS FAITH WAS NOT IN CHRIST, BECAUSE JESUS HAD NOT YET DIED ON THE CROSS.**

**HIS FAITH WAS IN THE PROMISE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.**

***GALATIANS 3:24,25***

***24 THEREFORE THE LAW WAS OUR <sup>[G]</sup>TUTOR TO BRING US TO CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH. 25 BUT AFTER FAITH HAS COME, WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER A TUTOR.***

**THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE DISCOUNT THE LAW BUT RATHER THAT AS CHRISTIANS OUR FAITH FOR SALVATION IS NOT IN THE LAW BUT IN CHRIST.**

**JOHN PIPER SAYS THIS ON THE SUBJECT...**

**THE LAW OF THE COMMANDMENTS WORKS WRATH AND MAKES OUR SIN ALL THE MORE OBVIOUS.**

**THAT'S VERSE 15. AND THE INFERENCE FROM THAT IN VERSE 14 IS THIS: IF YOU TRY TO BASE YOUR RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD AND YOUR INHERITANCE OF THE WORLD ON KEEPING THE LAW OF THE COMMANDMENTS, YOU WILL MAKE FAITH VOID AND NULLIFY THE PROMISE. SO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.**

**BASICALLY, STOP WORRYING ABOUT FOLLOWING A LIST OF RULES.**

**STOP BEING RELIGIOUS AND FOCUS ON BEING IN RIGHT STANDING WITH THE FATHER THROUGH HIS SON.**

***ROMANS 4:16***

***16 THEREFORE IT IS OF FAITH THAT IT MIGHT BE ACCORDING TO GRACE, SO THAT THE PROMISE MIGHT BE SURE TO ALL THE SEED, NOT ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE LAW, BUT ALSO TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, WHO IS THE FATHER OF US ALL...***

**SO HERE WE SEE A CLEAR AND DISTINCTIVE LINE DRAWN BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE.**

**THOSE WHO ARE OF THE LAW AND THOSE WHO ARE OF THE FAITH...**

**TRUST ME I KNOW THAT THIS THIS CAN GET VERY CONFUSING SO I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO TRY AND BREAK IT DOWN.**

**WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT WHILE THE LAW WAS NEVER INTENDED TO SAVE THE JEWS, THEY WERE EXPECTED TO KEEP THE LAW.**

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WE HAVE 3 TYPES OF LAW.**

- 1. THE MORAL LAW, THESE LAWS DESCRIBE THE UNCHANGING STANDARDS OF GOD'S CHARACTER AND ARE CONSIDERED ABSOLUTE, UNIVERSAL, AND ETERNALLY BINDING....**

**FOR EXAMPLE, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.**

**2. CEREMONIAL LAW**

**THESE WERE SPECIFIC ORDINANCES, RITUALS, AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

**THEIR PURPOSE WAS TO SERVE AS TYPES OR SHADOWS OF CHRIST AND HIS FUTURE REDEMPTIVE WORK.**

**THEY WERE FULFILLED AND MADE OBSOLETE WITH THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**THESE LAWS FOR EXAMPLE WERE THE LAWS CONCERNING THE PRIESTHOOD, SACRIFICES, FESTIVALS, AND DIETARY REGULATIONS FOUND IN BOOKS LIKE LEVITICUS AND NUMBERS.**

### **3. JUDICIAL LAW**

**THESE LAWS WERE SPECIFIC TO THE GOVERNING OF ANCIENT ISRAEL AS A NATION.**

**THEY PROVIDED FRAMEWORK FOR JUSTICE AND ORDER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.**

**AND WHILE THEY DON'T APPLY TO CHRISTIANS TODAY IN THEIR EXACT FORM, THEY REFLECT PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE.**

**THE NATION OF ISRAEL WAS UNDER THE LAW UNTIL CHRIST CAME AND WHILE THE LAW ITSELF COULD NOT PROVIDE SALVATION; THEY WERE EXPECTED TO UPHOLD THE LAW.**

**THE PURPOSE OF THESE LAWS WAS TO SEPARATE GODS PEOPLE FROM PAGANS THAT WERE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN IDOL WORSHIP.**

**REMEMBER THEY HAD SPENT OVER 400 YEARS IN CAPTIVITY IN A VERY PAGAN NATION.**

**THIS WAS GODS WAY OF REMINDING THEM WHO THEY WERE AND WHAT HIS EXPECTATIONS WERE FOR HIS PEOPLE.**

**THOSE ARE THE ONES UNDER THE LAW PAUL IS REFERRING TO, THE JEWISH PEOPLE.**

**THE ONES OF FAITH ARE GENTILES.**

**REMEMBER ABRAHAM WAS THE SPIRITUAL PROTOTYPE OF EVERY BELIEVER.**

**HE WAS A PAGAN UNGODLY SINNER WHO TRUSTED NOT IN HIS OWN EFFORTS BUT IN GODS GRACIOUS PROMISE.**

**AND THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF EVERY CHRISTIAN THAT HAS EVER LIVED.**

**IT'S OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE WE KEEP THIS IN MIND AS WE GO OUT INTO A WORLD THAT IS FILLED WITH EVIL.**

**WE WERE ALL THERE AT SOME POINT.**

**EVERY ONE OF US PRIOR TO GOD OPENING OUR EYES WERE AT WAR WITH GOD, WE WERE LIVING IN REBELLION AGAINST OUR CREATOR.**

**BUT A GRACIOUS LOVING GOD OPENED OUR EYES.**

**WE MUST HAVE THAT SAME GRACE TOWARDS THE LOST.**

**OUR DESIRE SHOULD BE THAT EVEN THE MOST EVIL, VILE PEOPLE WILL COME TO CHRIST.**

**EVEN PEOPLE THAT HAVE HURT US.**

**AS HARD AS THAT SOUNDS, WE MUST REMEMBER IT'S NOT ABOUT US OR OUR FEELINGS.**

**IT'S ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

**IT'S ABOUT WHAT GLORIFIES HIM.**

**THINK ABOUT STEPHEN IN HEAVEN, THE FIRST MARTYR FOR THE FAITH THAT PAUL STOOD BY AND WATCHED IN HEARTY AGREEMENT.**

**DO YOU THINK THERE WAS ANY ANIMOSITY WHEN THEY SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN?**

**OF COURSE NOT!**

**BECAUSE WHAT DID STEPHEN SAY AS THEY WERE STONING HIM TO DEATH?**

**ACTS 7:59,60**

***59 AND THEY STONED STEPHEN AS HE WAS CALLING ON GOD AND SAYING, "LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT." 60 THEN HE KNELT DOWN AND CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, "LORD, DO NOT CHARGE THEM WITH THIS SIN." AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE FELL ASLEEP.***

HIS LAST WORDS WERE FOR GOD TO FORGIVE THOSE THAT WERE KILLING HIM.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT, WE SEE THAT PRAYER ANSWERED AS WE READ THE BOOK OF ROMANS WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY THE MAN WHO HELD THE COATS OF THOSE STONING STEPHEN.

THAT IS HOW WE EXTEND THE SAME GRACE THAT WAS EXTENDED TO US.

LOVE THOSE WHO HATE US AND PRAY FOR THOSE THAT PERSECUTE US.

**ROMANS 4:17**

***17 (AS IT IS WRITTEN, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") IN THE PRESENCE OF HIM WHOM HE BELIEVED—GOD, WHO GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD AND CALLS THOSE THINGS WHICH DO NOT EXIST AS THOUGH THEY DID;***

THE FIRST PART OF THIS SECTION PAUL IS OF REFERENCING GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM IN GENESIS 17.

**GENESIS 17:5**

***NO LONGER SHALL YOUR NAME BE CALLED ABRAM, BUT YOUR NAME SHALL BE ABRAHAM; FOR I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS.***

I LOVE HOW GOD SPEAKS ABOUT HIS PROMISES, HE DIDN'T SAY I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS...

"FOR I HAVE MADE YOU THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS"

WHY DOES GOD SAY IT LIKE THIS?

BECAUSE WHEN GOD MAKES A PROMISE, HE KEEPS IT, IT IS GUARANTEED.

HE SPEAKS AS IF IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE BECAUSE IT HAS.

***ROMANS 4:17***

***17 (AS IT IS WRITTEN, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") IN THE PRESENCE OF HIM WHOM HE BELIEVED—GOD, WHO GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD AND CALLS THOSE THINGS WHICH DO NOT EXIST AS THOUGH THEY DID;***

HERE PAUL GIVES TWO QUALIFICATIONS OF GOD.

THE FIRST IS HE WHO GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD.

NOW THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THIS AS WELL, WE HAVE GOD SPARING ISAAC AND PROVIDING THE SACRIFICE IN HIS PLACE.

WE HAVE THE PEOPLE THAT WERE RAISED FROM THE DEAD SUCH AS LAZARUS AND THE WIDOW'S SON AS WELL AS CHRIST HIMSELF.

WE ALSO HAVE THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THIS, EVERY CHRISTIAN WAS DEAD IN OUR SINS BUT HAVE BEEN RAISED TO A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

THAT IS WHAT BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES.

***2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS 5:17***

***17 THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION; OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.***

THE SECOND QUALIFICATION PAUL OFFERS IS

***"AND CALLS THOSE THINGS WHICH DO NOT EXIST AS THOUGH THEY DID;"***

HE IS OF COURSE REFERRING TO CREATION.



**HEBREWS 11:3**

**<sup>3</sup> BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE <sup>[c]</sup>WORLDS WERE FRAMED BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN WERE NOT MADE OF THINGS WHICH ARE VISIBLE.**

THE GOD WHO MADE THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM IS THE ONE TRUE GOD, WHO CALLS PEOPLE PLACES AND EVENTS INTO EXISTENCE SOLELY BY SPEAKING.

OUR GOD IS THE GIVER OF LIFE AND CREATOR OF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

ANYTHING WE HAVE WHETHER IT BE A GIFT OR A TALENT, WHETHER IT BE OR JOB, SPOUSE, CHILDREN, HOME, FINANCES ALL BELONGS TO HIM.

HE CREATED IT ALL FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD.

THE ONLY THING THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO HIM IS OUR SIN.

BUT HE OFFERED US A WAY OUT OF THAT AS WELL.

ALL THOUGH HE DIDN'T CAUSE US TO SIN HE ALLOWED HIS SON TO PAY FOR OUR SINS.

EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD AND WONDERFUL THAT WE ENJOY IS BECAUSE HE SAW FIT TO PROVIDE IT FOR US.

AS WE LOOK AT THIS LAST SECTION OF VERSE 17 "***GOD, WHO GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD AND CALLS THOSE THINGS WHICH DO NOT EXIST AS THOUGH THEY DID;***"

I THINK THIS IS NOT ONLY A REFERENCE TO CREATION BUT SPECIFICALLY TO GOD CALLING A LIFE TO EXISTENCE THROUGH SARAH'S WOMB WHICH WAS DEAD.

GOD CREATED LIFE WITHIN HER IN A WAY THAT ONLY HE CAN.

**ROMANS 4:18-21**

***<sup>18</sup> WHO, CONTRARY TO HOPE, IN HOPE BELIEVED, SO THAT HE BECAME THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS, ACCORDING TO WHAT WAS SPOKEN, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” <sup>19</sup> AND NOT BEING WEAK IN FAITH, HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIS OWN BODY, ALREADY DEAD (SINCE HE WAS ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS OLD), AND THE DEADNESS OF SARAH’S WOMB. <sup>20</sup> HE DID NOT WAVER AT THE PROMISE OF GOD THROUGH UNBELIEF, BUT WAS STRENGTHENED IN FAITH, GIVING GLORY TO GOD, <sup>21</sup> AND BEING FULLY CONVINCED THAT WHAT HE HAD PROMISED HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO PERFORM. <sup>22</sup> AND THEREFORE “IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”***

**AS MOST OF YOU KNOW ABRAHAM'S GIVEN NAME WAS ABRAM. WHICH MEANS FATHER OF MANY.**

**SO LET'S PROCESS THIS AND WHAT IT MUST'VE LOOKED LIKE FOR HIM.**

**ABRAM LIVED ALONG THE ROADS OF COMMERCE OF THE ANCIENT WORLD BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE NORTH AND THE EAST.**

**HE OWNED WELLS AND AS SCRIPTURE TELLS US HIS FLOCKS AND HERDS WERE MANY.**

**WE ARE TOLD IN GENESIS 13:2 HE WAS VERY RICH IN CATTLE, IN SILVER AND IN GOLD.**

**WHEN THE CARAVANS OF THE RICH CAME THROUGH, THEY WOULD'VE STOPPED AT HIS WELLS TO WATER THEIR HERDS.**

**FOOD WAS MOST LIKELY SOLD TO THE TRAVELERS AND IN THE EVENINGS THE MERCHANTS WOULD COME TO HIS TENT TO PAY HIM.**

**AND WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE CONVERSATIONS THAT ENSUED UPON HEARING HIS NAME “ABRAM FATHER OF MANY” A COMMON QUESTION MUST'VE FOLLOWED...**

**HOW MANY SONS DO YOU HAVE?**

THIS COULD HAVE ONLY BEEN A SOURCE OF FRUSTRATION AND EMBARRASSMENT AND MOST LIKELY PLAYED A ROLE IN HIS WILLINGNESS TO TAKE HIS WIFE'S SERVANT AS A WIFE.

HAGAR WOULD BEAR ABRAM A SON AND HE WOULD BE NAMED ISHMAEL.

ABRAHAM WOULD ASK GOD IN GENESIS 17:18 IF ISHMAEL WOULD BE THE PROMISED HEIR AND GOD RESPONDS "NO, YOUR WIFE SARAH SHALL BEAR YOU A SON"

THIS IS A POWERFUL LESSON, THAT HUMAN EFFORTS CANNOT ACCOMPLISH GOD'S PROMISES.

GOD'S PROMISES WILL ONLY BE FULFILLED BY HIS POWER AND HUMAN EFFORTS WILL BRING DISHONOR TO GOD AND NEVER GLORY.

GOD DOESN'T NEED US TO HELP HIM ALONG.

OUR OBLIGATION IS TO TRUST HIM AND HIS SOVEREIGNTY KNOWING THAT HE IS WORKING ALL THINGS OUT ACCORDING TO HIS PERFECT WILL.

***ROMANS 4:18***

***18 WHO, CONTRARY TO HOPE, IN HOPE BELIEVED, SO THAT HE BECAME THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS, ACCORDING TO WHAT WAS SPOKEN, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."***

WHILE HOPE AND FAITH ARE CLOSELY RELATED, THEY ARE NOT THE SAME THING.

HOPE IS A DESIRE FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HAPPEN, WHERE AS FAITH IS FIRM CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL HAPPEN.

LET ME GIVE YOU GUYS AN ILLUSTRATION THAT MAY HELP US TO UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.

IMAGINE YOURSELF AS A SMALL CHILD ON THE EDGE OF A SWIMMING POOL.

**YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO SWIM AND NO HAVE NO ABILITY WHATSOEVER TO KEEP YOUR HEAD ABOVE THE WATER WITHOUT HELP.**

**YOUR FATHER IS IN THE SWIMMING POOL A FEW FEET AWAY WITH HIS ARMS OUT.**

**YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS, EITHER JUMP OR NOT.**

**TO JUMP INTO THE ARMS OF YOUR FATHER DISPLAYS FAITH THAT HE WILL CATCH YOU.**

**YOU CLEARLY SEE HOW CLOSE HE IS AND THAT HE JUST AN ARMS LENGTH AWAY.**

**SO IN FAITH YOU JUMP INTO HIS ARMS AND JUST AS YOU EXPECTED HE CATCHES YOU.**

**NOW LET'S CHANGE THE CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**THE VERY SAME DAY THAT YOU EXERCISED THAT FAITH IN YOUR FATHER AND LEAPT OFF THE EDGE OF THE POOL INTO HIS ARMS, SOMETHING HAPPENS.**

**YOU ARE NOW ON THE DIVING BOARD AND YOUR FATHER IS ON THE OTHER END OF THE POOL AS FAR AWAY AS HE COULD POSSIBLY BE, AND SOMEHOW THE NEIGHBORS VERY LARGE VERY MEAN DOG HAS GOTTEN INTO YOUR BACKYARD AND IS COMING STRAIGHT TOWARDS YOU.**

**YOU CRY OUT TO YOUR DAD AND HE SAYS ONE WORD "JUMP"**

**YOU HAVE NO TIME TO PROCESS HOW FAR AWAY HE IS ALL YOU KNOW IS THAT HE HAS TOLD YOU TO JUMP INTO THE DEEP END.**

**SO, IN THAT SPLIT SECOND ALL YOU CAN DO IS HOPE THAT HE WILL GET THERE IN TIME.**

**SO, YOU JUMP AND BEFORE YOUR HEAD CAN GO UNDER YOU FEEL HIS ARMS SCOOP YOU UP SAFELY AS HE TREADS WATER AND TAKES YOU SAFELY OUT OF HARM'S WAY.**

**YOU HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT YOUR DAD WOULD GET THERE IN TIME, YOU HAD NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE THAT WAS SIMILAR TO COMPARE THIS SITUATION TO.**

**BUT YOU HAD FAITH IN YOUR FATHER AND HOPED HE COULD DO WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD.**

**ABRAHAM HAD HOPE BUT SPEAKING STRICTLY FROM A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THAT HOPE.**

**BUT WHAT SEEMED COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN TO ACCOMPLISH HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN BECAUSE GOD HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD.**

**WHEN GOD TOOK ABRAHAM OUTSIDE AND SHOWED HIM THE STARS IN THE SKY AND TOLD HIM HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD BE JUST AS NUMEROUS ABRAHAM BELIEVED HIM.**

**HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT WOULD HAPPEN BUT HE TRUSTED THAT IT WOULD.**

**VERY OFTEN IN OUR OWN LIVES WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW GOD IS GOING TO USE US.**

**BUT IT'S NOT UP TO US TO SAY THAT HE WON'T.**

**OUR DUTY IS TO TRUST HIM AND BELIEVE THAT HE WILL.**

**VERY OFTEN IT WILL INCLUDE UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATIONS, IT WILL INCLUDE DIFFICULT MOMENTS.**

**THERE WILL BE TIMES OF TEMPORARY UNCERTAINTY WHERE WE HAVE TO STEP OUT IN FAITH AND TRUST THAT GOD IS GOING TO KEEP HIS PROMISE.**

**AND I SAY MOMENTS OF TEMPORARY UNCERTAINTY BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THIS LIFE IS....  
TEMPORARY.**

**SO WHILE THINGS MAY BE UNCOMFORTABLE OR UNKNOWN WE CAN TRUST NO MATTER WHAT, THAT OUR GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US.**

**WE CAN BELIEVE THAT HE LOVES US WITH A LOVE THAT IS DEEPER THAN WE CAN EVER IMAGINE, AND IF HE HAS CALLED US TO WALK THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME WE CAN KNOW WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT HE IS THERE WITH US.**

***ROMANS 4:19***

***19 AND NOT BEING WEAK IN FAITH, HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIS OWN BODY, ALREADY DEAD (SINCE HE WAS ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS OLD), AND THE DEADNESS OF SARAH'S WOMB.***

**BEAR IN MIND THE FIRST TIME GOD MADE ABRAHAM THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD HAVE A SON WAS 25 YEARS PRIOR TO THIS MOMENT.**

**WHY WOULD GOD DO THAT?**

**WHY WOULD HE MAKE HE AND HIS WIFE WAIT ANOTHER 25 YEARS?**

**TO PROVE THAT GOD WAS THE ONE THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE.**

**TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT THE CHILD BORN TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH WAS A CHILD THAT WAS GIVEN TO THEM BY GOD TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE.**

**A PROMISE GUARANTEED BY GOD HIMSELF.**

**WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT ABRAHAM HAD EVER WITNESSED A MIRACLE PERFORMED BY GOD, WE HAVE NOTHING THAT SAYS HE SAW SOMEONE RAISED FROM THE DEAD.**

**YET HE WHEN GOD TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE A SON HE BELIEVED HIM.**

**WE SEE CLEARLY THAT ABRAHAM WAS NOT DISCOURAGED BY HIS AGE OR HIS WIFE'S AGE.**

HE BELIEVED IN A PROMISE THAT HAD BEEN GUARANTEED BY GOD HIMSELF.

***ROMANS 4:20***

***20 HE DID NOT WAVER AT THE PROMISE OF GOD THROUGH UNBELIEF, BUT WAS STRENGTHENED IN FAITH, GIVING GLORY TO GOD,***

WHEN GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM, HE WOULD HAVE A SON HIS FAITH WASN'T WEAKENED BUT RATHER MADE STRONGER.

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS GOD WAITED UNTIL HE AND SARAH WERE SO OLD.

SO THAT IT WOULD BE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT HIS PROMISE WAS FULFILLED SUPERNATURALLY AND NOT BECAUSE OF HUMAN MEANS.

GOD DESIGNED IT THIS WAY ON PURPOSE, SO THAT HE WOULD BE GLORIFIED AND HIS NAME MAGNIFIED NOT ONLY BY ABRAHAM AND SARAH BUT ALSO EVERYONE THAT KNEW THEM AND EVERYONE THAT READS THIS ACCOUNT OF HISTORY.

AS WE WILL SEE SHORTLY IN VERSE 24.

***ROMANS 4:21***

***21 AND BEING FULLY CONVINCED THAT WHAT HE HAD PROMISED HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO PERFORM.***

ABRAHAM WAS FULLY PERSUADED THAT GODS PROMISE WAS CERTAIN AND HIS POWER WAS SUFFICIENT.

THIS VERSE TELLS US THAT HIS FAITH IN GOD WAS COMPLETE.

***ROMANS 4:22***

***22 AND THEREFORE "IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."***

IN ABRAHAM'S SINFUL FLESH HE WAS JUST AS WE ARE, INCAPABLE OF MEETING THE RIGHTEOUS STANDARDS OF OUR HOLY GOD.

**BUT THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION OR AS PAUL PUTS IN ROMANS 1:1 “THE GOSPEL OF GOD”**

**IS THAT THE LORD WILL TAKE THE FAITH THAT HE HIMSELF HAS SO GRACIOUSLY GIVEN US AND COUNT IT AS DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS ON THE BELIEVING SINNERS BEHALF.**

***ROMANS 4:23-25***

***<sup>23</sup> NOW IT WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR HIS SAKE ALONE THAT IT WAS IMPUTED TO HIM, <sup>24</sup> BUT ALSO FOR US. IT SHALL BE IMPUTED TO US WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WHO RAISED UP JESUS OUR LORD FROM THE DEAD, <sup>25</sup> WHO WAS DELIVERED UP BECAUSE OF OUR OFFENSES, AND WAS RAISED BECAUSE OF OUR JUSTIFICATION.***

**AS I SAID EARLIER ALL OF THIS WAS DONE NOT SOLELY FOR ABRAHAM BUT RATHER FOR EVERYONE THAT WOULD EVER BELIEVE.**

**GOD PROVIDES US WITH ALL OF THESE WONDERFUL ACCOUNTS OF HIS GRACIOUS LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE ALL THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE SO THAT WAY MAY BE STRENGTHENED IN OUR FAITH.**

**SO THAT WE MAY BE ENCOURAGED.**

**SO THAT WE MAY HAVE A CONFIDENT FAITHFUL HOPE IN OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.**

**KNOWING THAT HE DIED TO PAY THE RANSOM FOR OUR SINS.**

**KNOWING THAT HIS SHED BLOOD PAID THE DUE PENALTY FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS.**

**AND THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION WE MAY BE JUSTIFIED BEFORE A HOLY GOD.**

**MY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL LEAVE OUT OF HERE TODAY KNOWING THAT PROMISES OF OUR FATHER ARE GUARANTEED BECAUSE OF WHAT HIS SON DID ON THE CROSS.**



**MY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND COMFORTED  
KNOWING THAT GOD LOVED YOU ENOUGH TO SEND HIS SON TO THE  
CROSS FOR YOU.**

**MY HOPE IS THAT WHEN THE FATHER SAYS TO YOU “DON’T WORRY  
MY CHILD I WILL CATCH YOU”**

**THAT YOU WILL HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO JUMP IN THAT POOL.**

**BECAUSE HE WILL CATCH YOU, EVERY SINGLE TIME.**