

Romans 4

Jesus

I. Abraham Justified by Faith Putting Skin on It

1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but **not before God.**

- What would Abraham see looking back on his life/deeds?
- Does he have something to boast about before God?

1. Idolater in Babylon/Called out by God

Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; **I will bless you** And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

2. Promised the Land of Canaan/Builds an Altar
3. Famine/Egypt: Save his own skin tells wife to say she is his sister.
4. Egypt: Acquires riches/servant girl named Hagar. Never told to go to Egypt
5. Canaan: Back to the Altar: Calls on Name of Lord
6. Separated from nephew Lot and God speaks...

Genesis 13:14b... [God to Abe] Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 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. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and **built an altar there to the Lord.**

7. Not yet declared righteous
8. Recuse nephew Lot from being taken hostage
9. Melchizedek King of Salem bring bread/wine. Communion with Jesus
10. Refuses anything from evil king of Sodom "... lest you say you made me rich

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**" 2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

11. Declared Righteous 400 years before the Law of God is given
12. 86 still no child. Wife give Hagar and Ishmael is born [Do it yourself project]

Q. Does this negate the righteousness accounted to him.

A. No. He did not earn it thus he cannot lose it

13. 99 Yrs. old: God gives sign of circumcision. Abraham the first Jew

14. **God says He will keep his promise:** Your seed will bless the world

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" 19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

15. Ch. 20 Goes south to Gerar and tells wife to say she is his sister again

Q. Is God finally done with Abraham

A. No. God finishes what He alone started...

Genesis 21:1 And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac.[laughter] 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Q. What did Abraham believe?

A. From his dead body would come life [Later 4:19]

That God had the Power to give Life to the Dead

- **Faith confirmed by his works:** Take only son to the mountain and kill Him

Take the son I promised would have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky
kill him.

Genesis 22:4 Then on the **third day** Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and **we will come back to you.**"

Genesis 22:6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide for Himself the lamb** for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

- **Abraham Believed** God must to intervene: We will come back to you
- **Abraham Proceeded** to do what God asked still believing God
- **Abraham Waited:** 3 Days Isaac dead in his father's eyes... **He raised the knife...**

Genesis 22: 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "**Here I am.**" 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, **The-Lord-Will-Provide;** as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the **Lord it shall be provided.**" [Same area Temple/Calvary where Jesus would give His life]

**We are all born under the wrath of God unless He intervenes and we say...
Here I Am**

3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed God, and it was **accounted to him for righteousness.**"**

Faith is only the condition. God accepts faith in lieu of our works. There is no merit in faith, but it is the only way of receiving that which God freely offer. Faith honors God and secures righteousness for man. God put down righteousness in Abraham's account to his credit. His faith counted for what it was not-a righteousness from God. This is important to see. [JV McGee]

We are not called to **believe in God**...even the demons do that
We are called to **believe God**: He alone can bring Life from the Dead

There is no honor or merit in Abraham believing in a faithful God, who cannot lie. The honor is God's. When Abraham believed God, he did the one thing that a man can do without doing anything! God made the promise and God undertook to fulfill it. Abraham believed in his heart that God told the truth. There was no effort there, but attitude. His heart turned completely away from himself and to God and His promise. This left God free to fulfill His promise [in Abraham *mine*] [Newell]

Abraham **believed God**...it was **accounted** to him for **righteousness**

SUMMARY Abraham Justified by Faith

Every person in heaven is/will be saved by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Jesus Alone
His Life...His Death...His Resurrection on the 3rd Day

Ephesians 2:8 For by **grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 **not of works**, lest anyone **should boast**.

You don't need a Savior if you can save yourself. [NJC]

Abraham could not boast...**Maybe David can boast?**

II. David [also] Justified by Faith Putting Flesh on It

4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

**If the unrighteous can be good enough to obligate God to save them
That would make God a debtor...and that just does not work**

5 But to him who **does not work but believes on Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is accounted for righteousness...**

God Justifies the Ungodly. So?

So, If God did not Justify the Ungodly...No one would ever go to Heaven

God justifies the ungodly because there are no godly for Him to justify. [Wiersbe]

- **Yah...but what about David?** Man after God's own heart? Sweet Psalmist of Israel?

David is the second witness after Abraham of OT Salvation by Grace

6 ...just as David also describes the blessedness [happiness] of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

- **Impute:** To count/reckon as... IOW's

Grace makes Faith count as Righteousness. Imputed/Received. **Be blessed!**

- Blessed is the man who **receives righteousness**
- Blessed is the man who **receives forgiveness**
- Blessed is the man who **receives mercy**; i.e. not take into account his sin

The Doctrine of Imputed Righteousness separates true/false, saved/unsaved, believers/make-believers. The fact that righteousness must be given by an external source and received internally by an undeserving sinner rather than achieved by one's deeds... separates the prideful from the humble and ultimately those on the broad path to hell from those on the narrow path leading to eternal life. [NJC]

- What would Abraham have to boast about re. life/deeds?
- Does **David have something to boast about before God?**
 1. Shepherd boy fending off lions, tigers/bears with sling shot
 2. Brought brothers sandwiches/fine cheeses to the front line
 3. Confronted Goliath in the Name of the Lord
 4. Ran from King Saul for over decade
 5. **God's Promise:** Messiah will come from your line/Sit on your Throne 2 Sam Ch 7
 6. Military conquests for the Lord/Israel/Kindness to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth
 7. Anointed King 3x and was a good one/Noble, wise, man after God's own heart

Let David's Boasting Begin?

8. **Stayed home while Kings went to battle Ch 11**
9. Happened to be walking around roof of Palace
10. Happened peek Bathsheba taking a bath. Sent for her now implicating others
11. Committed Adultery w/her/made Joab send husband to front line to be killed
12. Did not confess his sin till called out by Prophet Nathan **year later!!**

Yet v7 God covered David's Sin...Not fair?

That's what David had said in his pride about someone else...

2 Samuel 12:1 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And [Nathan] came to [David], and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. 3 But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. 4 And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take

from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this **shall surely die! 6 And he shall restore fourfold** for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." 7 Then Nathan said to David, "**You are the man!** Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 9 Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. 10 Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because **you have despised Me**, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.' " So David said to Nathan, "**I have sinned against the Lord.**" And Nathan said to David, "**The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme**, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." 15 Then Nathan departed to his house.

**David better be justified by faith not works! And he was.
Temporal Consequences for his sins were intense/not removed**

- Child from relationship died along w/3 other children: Paid 4-fold
 - Sorrow plagued David all his life but **he knew 2 things that kept him going...**
1. **His sins were erased from God's Eternal Account...**David still God's beloved son
 2. **God would keep His Promise:** From David's sons would come the Messiah

**God keeps His promises...He is the Promise Keeper not us
When we are "doing well" we demand the same from others**

- **David previously wrote this...**

Psalm 15:1 Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

How it hurts to our core/inner being when we realize this is not us...**not any of us
David wrote this after God forgave him...**

Psalm 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose **sin is covered.** 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does **not impute iniquity**, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And **You forgave the iniquity** of my sin. Selah

...6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. 7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; **You shall surround me with songs** of deliverance. Selah

...8 **I will instruct you and teach** you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. [Feed My sheep] 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

▪ **Messianic Psalms: 12/14 by Prophet David 1000BC**

- Psalm 2 Son of God/Earthly Kingdom
- Psalm 8 Praised by children
- Psalm 16 Resurrection
- Psalm 22,34,69 Crucifixion
- Psalm 35 Falsely Accused
- Psalm 40 Agrees to give His life
- Psalm 41 Betrayal
- Psalm 68 Ascension
- Psalm 109 Prays for enemies
- Psalm 110 Eternal Priest

**Abraham trusted in the finished work of Jesus on the cross
David trusted in the finished work of Jesus on the cross...**

Psalm 22 David [Son to Father from Cross] My God, My God, **why have You forsaken Me?** Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? 2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. 3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. 4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. 5 They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed. 6 But **I am a worm, and no man**; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" 9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts. 10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God. 11 Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help. 12 Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. 13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. 19 But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! 20 Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. 21 Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. 22 I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. 23 You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all

you offspring of Israel! 24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. 25 My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; **Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever!** 27 All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations. 29 All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. 30 A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, 31 They will come and declare His righteousness **to a people who will be born, That He has done this.**

- David prophesies of His Savior dying on a Cross before crucifixion introduced
Where is the boast of religious man? Arrogance of "moral" man? All mouths are shut

Ezekiel 16:62 And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, 63 that you may remember and be ashamed, and **never open your mouth** anymore because of your shame, **when I provide you an atonement** for all you have done," says the Lord God.'

How can man reject so great a Salvation? So precious a gift?

You don't need a Savior if you can save yourself. [NJC]

Even Mary trusted in the finished work her Son/Savior would accomplish for her

Luke 1:46 [Jesus in her womb Mary sang...] "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To **Abraham and to his seed forever."**

Paul as Abe as David as Mary as We...Need a Righteousness apart from ourselves

Philippians 3:7 [Paul]... what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish...**

8b... that I may **gain Christ** 9 and be **found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the **righteousness which is from God by faith...**

God covered David's Sin...Jesus took them away

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin...

God Justifies the Ungodly

If God does not Justify the Ungodly...No one is going to Heaven

God justifies the ungodly **because there are no godly** for Him to justify. [Wiersbe]

- The Justice God demands for our sin... **He also provided**
- The Righteousness God requires...He also offers to **whosoever believes. What?**
 1. Believe you're a sinner who needs a Savior
 2. Believe Jesus is Savior and died for your sins
 3. **Believe God raised Him from the dead**

Romans 10:9 ... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that **God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

He is willing/able to bring you from death/life...darkness/light...sinner/saint
What about all that other stuff people talk about? **I got a guy...**

Luke 23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed [Jesus], saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." 40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the **due reward of our deeds**; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**" 43 And Jesus said to him...

"Assuredly, I say to you...today you will be with Me in Paradise."

You don't need a Savior if you can save yourself...and you can't so you do [NJC]

- **Abraham** Justified by Faith
- **David** Justified by Faith

Religious Jews Called Abraham their Father

They said you must be circumcised/keep the law to be saved.
Abraham was saved before he was circumcised and before the Law was given

1. Satan is the **inventor of religion**
2. Satan is the **father of the religious**

Religion/Religious hate Jesus

John 8:37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." 39 They answered and said to Him, "**Abraham is our father.**" Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 **You are of your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not

believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." 48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. 51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." 52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' **53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead.** Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

Matthew 22:32 [c.f. Exodus 3:6] **'I am** the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**"

...54 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. 55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father **Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.**" 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**" 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Religion is Angry with God. Hates the Cross. Hates Jesus. Hates you.

- **Salvation by Faith** Abraham's Kids
- **Salvation by Works** Satan's kids

III. Abraham Justified Before Circumcision/Law

Romans 4:6 ...just as David also describes the **blessedness** [happiness] of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 **"Blessed** are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 **Blessed** is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised [Jews? Abraham/David, etc.] only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that **faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.** 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? **Not while circumcised,** but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of **all those who believe,** though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also **walk in the steps of the faith** which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

- **Declared Righteous by faith** Genesis 15 Before...
- **Circumcision** Genesis 17 Before...
- **Law Given** [10 Commandments] Exodus 20 Abe dead now 400 years

Abraham is our Father because we walk in the same steps of faith as Abraham
Abraham was saved before he was Circumcised/Before he was a Jew/before Law

- **We are sons of Abraham** because we were saved by faith before...
 1. Getting Baptized
 2. Taking Communion
- Abraham believed God would give him an heir from his/Sara's good as dead bodies

IV. Promise Granted Through Faith

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.**

Abraham is heir of the world along with those who believe like Abraham
...not those who necessarily look like him

- To the Indian who believes
- To the African who believes
- To the Chinese who believes
- To the Aborigine who believe
- **Every person who believes can call Abraham father**

14 For if those who are of the law [Jews] are heirs, faith is made void and the **promise** made of no effect, 15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

- The burden to fulfill a promise has nothing to do with the recipient

Galatians 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to **Abraham by promise.**

- Q.** Why such redundancy? Salvation is a free gift promised by God. Must be received
A. Because the **entire world does not believe Salvation is free.**

So? So, if they don't humbly take the free gift/accept the promise

...they are going to hell

- **The whole world believes they're going to heaven because...**
 1. They're good enough
 2. They're better than most
 3. They deserve it
 4. They're entitled to it
 5. They've have earned it
 6. They've worked for it
 7. They've *religiosized?* for it
 8. They've sacrificed for it
 9. They've suffered for it

**So... what if everyone on earth believes this?
So what? Does that make it true?**

Romans 3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but **every man a liar**

Salvation is about a Promise/Promise giver offering Salvation/Forgiveness as a Gift
If the it is not received as a gift...it was never received at all

The law brings God's wrath to those who try to keep it because the cant. If there were no law there would be not sin...but there is a law thus there is not only sin but judgment due sin for those who break the law. [NJC]

**...Unless someone steps in... And someone did 2000 years ago
Lived His life keeping the Law perfectly/Died His death taking our sin completely**

Hebrews 2:3 ...how shall we escape if we neglect **so great a salvation**

Promise: Unilateral Covenant

Genesis 15:1 [Rest of the Story] After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." 2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the Lord, and **He accounted it to him for righteousness.** 7 Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." 8 And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" 9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. [Cut a covenant/agreement] 12 Now when the sun was going down, **a deep sleep fell upon Abram;** and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." 17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 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..."

Q. What did Abraham do? **A.** Listened to the Promise and Believed

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

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; 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."

- **The Law by very definition is not Grace.** E.g., I do so I get. I work so I earn
- **The Promise to Abraham:**
 1. Father of many nations...not just Israel who has the Law
 2. Father of those who believe. **Believe what?**

That God gives raises the dead...Calls things that do not exist into existence

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. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was **strengthened in faith**, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore **"it was accounted to him for righteousness."**

Ephesians 2:1 And you *He made alive*, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.⁴ **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved),

Abraham believed God that he/Sarah could produce an heir at 100 years
God could give life to the dead...no matter how impossible
...We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

- **Able to give Life to what is dead...**
 1. Marriage
 2. Relationships
 3. Zeal for life

God is able to give Life to all that the world, devil, your sin has rendered dead

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have **life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

- **Do you believe Him today to bring to life what is dead?**

Hebrews 11:6 **...without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**Be convinced as Abraham...He who said it is also able to do it
Not to believe in God...To believe God for Salvation and Beyond**

23 Now it was **not written for his sake alone** that it was imputed to him, **24 but also for us**. It shall be **imputed to us** who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up **because of our offenses**, and was raised **because of our justification**.

**Promise of righteousness through faith was not just to Abraham...
To all sons/daughters of Abraham who walk in his footsteps of faith**

- **Imputed Righteousness:** Righteousness of another
 1. **Father delivered Jesus to death:** Because of our sin
 2. **Father raised Jesus up from the dead.** So?

God the Father declared us Righteous by Raising Jesus from the Dead

Ungodly now justified in the sight of a Perfect/Holy God

- This while we lay dormant gazing at the Cross...

Romans 5:6 ... when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

- This while we were still in the midst of killing His Son with our sin...

Romans 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- This while God still promising even more after Salvation...

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Hebrews 2:3 ...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation

God Justifies the Ungodly

If God does not Justify the Ungodly...No one is going to Heaven

But He does...So we are!