

## Romans Chapter 4

Paul introduces Abraham and David as Old Testament examples of how one was declared righteous before God. Abraham was reckoned righteous before the law. David was reckoned righteous after the law.

Abraham was justified by believing the promise of God that he was given in Genesis 15:3-6

And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son<sup>[b]</sup> shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he *believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

Righteousness is never a product of human effort

Vs 5 – the one who does not work but believes is reckoned righteous – NO WORKS

David is briefly mentioned by quoting Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up<sup>[b]</sup> as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

### What was Covered?

1. Transgressions forgiven
2. Sin is covered
3. Iniquity is blotted out – no account, removed from the ledger

David did not earn God's forgiveness for his two great sins. God's mercy was given because of his great repentance and humbly heart. Also note Psalm 51.

### Question: Did Abraham stumble and make mistakes after he was declared righteous?

- Genesis 16 – Hagar – Abraham took the initiative to work out the promise; bad idea
- Genesis 20 – Lies about Sarah being his sister, not his wife.

Luke 22: 31-32

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you,<sup>[d]</sup> that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that **your faith may not fail**. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

Peter failed under pressure; Jesus prayed that his "faith" may not fail.

Jesus knew he would fall but told him not to lose faith and if he continued in the faith Jesus would see him through.

**The Issue of Circumcision.** Was circumcision required to be accepted and declared righteous?

- Abraham was declared righteous in Genesis chapter 15
- Circumcision was the seal of his righteousness in Genesis chapter 17 (14 years later)
- Faith is the only thing necessary to be declared righteous before God
- Faith is open to all who believe, for the Jew (circumcised) and the gentile (uncircumcised)
- The ritual affirms the faith of the one who has believed
- Abraham was to be the SPIRITUAL FATHER of all the nations through faith in the seed of Abraham – the seed – the Messiah – Jesus.
- The promises was given and believed before circumcision
- Faith alone

**What were the Steps of Abraham?**

1. Abraham believed the promise with no evidence
2. Abraham recognized he was incapable of producing the promise in his own abilities
3. Abraham focused on the promise without wavering
4. He and Sarah received supernatural life to fulfill the promise
5. The promise was fulfilled and GOD WAS GLORIFIED

**What is the Purpose of the Law?**

- The law was never a means to achieve righteous
- Obeying the law was never a condition to be met so the promise could be fulfilled
- The law brings wrath on law breakers
- The law does not bring us closer to God
- The law shows us our need for grace
  - The law is perfect which is why imperfect people cannot keep it
  - The law is holy which is why sinners are condemned by it
  - The law is just, therefore it cannot show mercy to the guilty
  - The law condemns the best man, grace saves the worst man

Vs 16 Faith and grace opens to door to all who believe to be made righteous. All who believe are descendants of Abraham

**Abrahams Belief**

- In hope against hope he believed the promise
- He became strong in the faith and believed God would fulfill the promise
- The outward evidence was acknowledge (dead body, dead womb)
- God said he would be a father – Abraham believed God
- Abraham was able to perform and Sarah had a son and God was glorified

James 1:4-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let **him ask in faith, with no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### **Application for Us**

Just as Abraham believed and was reckoned righteous so can we if we believe Jesus was delivered up for our sins and raised again on the third day. (1 Cor 15:1-4)

2 Cor 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.