

Overview

1-V1 Israel looked back to _____ as her founding father. In reality God used Abraham to found Israel. He was able to use Abraham because he _____ God enough to obey and do the good _____ that God used to create the nation of Israel

2-V2-5 Abraham had no basis for any _____. Israel became a supernatural nation because God did it. Abraham was able to be a channel through which God worked because he had a _____ relationship with God based on a _____ in and love for God.

3-V6-8 God declares that a certain kind of undeserving _____ has a right standing with him --- Can approach him – Can fellowship with him. It is the person who _____ in Him. Belief includes (1) A longing to connect with God and (2) A faith in God’s character that God will provide a way to cover sins.

4-V6-8 A person who is hopelessly entangled in the power of sin has _____ and joy when he finds out that----- God has declared him _____. His _____ is forgiven — His sins are put out of _____ His sins are no longer _____ against him by the Lord.

5-V9-12 Who gets the _____ of having their sins set aside and declared right with God? The answer is –anyone who takes the Father’s hand and says “ Father I know you love me and are taking care of the consequences of my sin. Father I know I can come boldly into your presence.” God accepted _____ before he was _____ . God accepts us before we do any good thing or go through any outward ritual.

6-V13” It is clear, then, that God’s _____ to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was not based on _____ to God’s _____ but on the new _____ with God that comes by faith.”

7-V14 “If you claim that God’s promise is for those who _____ the _____ and THINK they are “ _____ enough in God’s sight then you are saying that _____ (a relationship of mutual affection and trust between God and man) is _____

8-V15-16 Our experience is that though we greatly want to do what we know is right (keep the law) we find ourselves slipping off into some indulgence or defiance. The only way we can avoid being _____ for being a lawbreaker is to have _____ law to break. And that is what God has done—He says our relationship with Him is based on mutual love not impossible perfection – or the disastrous foolishness of thinking that following Jewish or Christian legalisms makes us ‘good enough” when only love is good enough

9-V17 Abraham is the spiritual father of _____ nations, not just of Israel, because the qualification for being God’s people is not becoming a Jew but having faith like Abraham.

10-V17 Watch the news --- the continual depravity and human caused catastrophes and unspeakable sufferings prove that human kind can never be “good enough”. The world’s only hope is THE LORD . He is better and greater than man. Only He can bring the _____ back to life (not just kill them) Only He can bring into existence what didn’t exist _____ (create out of nothing.)

11-V18-20 The birth of Isaac demonstrated that Abraham related to God by faith. It was an impossible birth, humanly speaking. Abraham was a _____ old. Sarah was 90 and she had _____ been able to have children. It happened because God does miracles for someone who believes that God can do the impossible in order to keep his promises.

12-V20 “ Abraham _____ wavered in _____ God’s _____ In fact, his faith great stronger and in this he

brought _____ to God. He was absolutely _____ that God was able to do _____ he promised.

13-V 24-25 “It was for us, too, assuring us that God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God who brought _____ our Lord back from the _____. He was handed over to die because of sins (God’s answer to sin) , and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.”

Word Study • IMPOSSIBLE • ABRAHAM

• DECLARED • LATER • PUNISHMENT • GREW

1.V1 _____ Abraham believed the Lord, and the LORD declared him righteous because of his faith.” Genesis 15:6 Faith or belief in the scripture always means more than believing something is true—it involves risking your life on that truth. So to believe God is do what he says is true. Belief in God also has longing for a relationship with the other one, affection for , and enjoyment of the other one’s presence—love, if you will.

Keeping the law or right behavior, on the other hand, requires the other person to accept you-with or without risk or relationship. “The LORD is full of unfailing love” Psalm 145:8

Abraham believed God enough to leave his homeland and family – To believe his barren wife Sarah would have a baby when she was 90 and he was a 100 - To be willing to raise a knife to sacrifice the miracle son— passing God’s test. Abraham the spiritual father of Jews and Christians believed God and was righteous in his sight 400 years before Moses and the giving of the Law -- including circumcision. Human rituals and law keeping don’t stop sin.

2.V3 _____ Accounted, reckoned. The Greek word is *logizomai* It is used in numbering. It means : to count, to compute, to calculate, to sum up. In this scripture God adds up all that Christ has done for us and says— “ I count believing in - connecting with my son Jesus-- placing your trust in Him and his finished work ---as enough to make you right in my sight.” On the other hand, God decided not to count our trespasses. ‘ *What joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord.*” verse 8

3.V10 _____ Things like circumcision or baptism come later. The three salvation steps are : (1) God chooses us---makes it possible for us to come to Him-- motivates us by touching us with His love and power. (2) We respond with love and trust . (3) Because we have love and trust Christ lives in our inner person and enables us to become like Him—a person who naturally and usually unconsciously does what pleases God. “ *Only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.*” Romans 3:31

4. V15 _____ God sees the heart so unless our thoughts and passions are faultless we are law breakers. Therefore, it is impossible for anyone to keep the law and escape punishment. Jesus said that, “ *But I warn you , unless you obey God better than the teachers of religious law and Pharisees do , you can’t enter the kingdom of Heaven at all.*” He goes on to talk about breaking the law in our thoughts and passions. Inner anger breaks the law against murder (if thoughts could kill --we say) *If someone looks at a woman with lust in his eye he has already committed adultery with her.*” Matthew 5:20, 21,28

5. V18 _____ There are a number of things that are impossible for us to do. --To cause the world and universe to come into existence -- To cause our own birth into the world -- To stop our bodies from dying eventually. -- To be a 100% good and sinless person—good enough ---To escape God’s wrath, judgment, punishment and hell. If we are created, cared for, and saved it must be a gift of God. Faith says, “ *I can not by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him, but God the*

Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and kept me in true faith" Luther's Catechism.

6.V20_____A trained runner gets what is called "his second wind."

He runs-- becomes weary-- but presses on beyond the weariness --and suddenly the refreshment and energy of the second wind kick in. The more and longer Abraham believed the son was coming the more faith he experienced. We experience that as we stand persevering in praying for someone's healing, for example, God's presence increases and our confidence in the healing happening grows.

What does this Scripture say to you?
