

Paul's Letter to the

Romans

Chapter 4:1-8



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SALVATION IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH EVEN IN THE OT

ROMANS 4:1-8



- 1) Salvation was by grace through faith for Abraham vv. 1-2
- 2) Salvation was by grace through faith for David vv. 3-5
- 3) Only salvation by grace through faith brings peace and blessing from God. vv.6-7

ROMANS 4:1-8

1. What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?
2. For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
3. For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."
4. Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.
5. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,
6. just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:
7. "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.
8. "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."



EARLY JEWISH THOUGHT ON ABRAHAM

The Book of Jubilees (200bc), "Abraham was perfect in all his deeds with the Lord, and well pleasing in righteousness all the days of his life."

Prayer of Manasseh (100-200 bc) "Therefore though, O Lord, God of the righteous, has not appointed repentance for the righteous; for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who did not sin against You, but You has appointed repentance for me, who am a sinner."

Ecclesiasticus (also known as The Wisdom of Sirach) Abraham is said to have become right with God because of His faithfulness in keeping "The Law of the Most High." (44:19-21).



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FAITH IS NOT A "WORK"

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

- Faith in and of itself is worthless, it is the OBJECT of our faith that is everything.
- Your faith is only as good as the object you put it in.
- It was not the greatness of Abrahams faith that saved him. It was the greatness of the One he put his faith IN that mattered!"



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ROMANS 4:3

3. For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

"We have, therefore, as plain as it is possible to express it, the truth that God has with fixed determination made a precise and mathematical calculation in which He has written off as gone forever all of the sin of the one who trusts in the vicarious atonement which He has provided in Jesus Christ, and that He has with thought and care placed the deposit of His own righteousness to their credit so that the books which once declared them bankrupt now manifest them as the possessors of all that God could ever require of them." Barnhouse.



ROMANS 4:4-5



4. Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.
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Psalm 51:5-7 "O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."