

INTRODUCTION:

4:13–15 For the promise that he should be the heir to the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they are which of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. The promise made to Abraham and his seed to inherit the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. So those relying on the law made faith void and made the promise of none effect. Why? – Because Abraham didn't work for his righteousness. It was credited to him by faith on what he believed—*"I will make you the father of many nations."* The law brought punishment, but where there's no command of the law, there's no punishment of sin. The law points out the sin. ¹If people could get God's promise by following the law, then faith is worthless and God's promise to Abraham is worthless. Abraham's righteousness was justified by faith, not through the law.

4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,— Therefore, since the promise couldn't come through the law, this is why it depended upon Abraham's faith in order to rest freely on God's grace (favor). Thus, the promise is afforded to all the seed: those of the law and those of the same faith of Abraham (the father of all of us) by the means of God's grace.

4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Paul has just said that *"Abraham was the father of us all"*—Jews as well as Gentiles, and his scripture is—*"I have made thee a father of many nations."* This shows me that before God tells you about it, He has already done it, granted it, made it possible. And when you haven't seen it yet, you have to expect the promise, look for it to happen, because...

when God spoke it upon Abram, he didn't have the Promised child in Genesis 12:2, and Sarai couldn't wait on God in Genesis 16:4, so she gave her handmaiden Hagar to Abram to have a child (Hagar had Ismael). Now mind you this was not what God wanted. Then God changed his name to *"Abraham"* in Genesis 17:1 at 99yrs old, calling him *"father of many nations"* in Genesis 17:5. Therefore, whatever you're claiming in His Word, wait on it with expectancy. It's yours! This is a faith lesson! for God **did** make Abraham a great nation.

This is the **"God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."** Nothing had happened in the present at that time, but Abraham believed that what was dead in he and Sarah (past the child-bearing age) could come to life by calling what wasn't, though it were and call the things not being as being. It was all on God to make all things possible. He can make something out of nothing. He needs nothing to create. He can speak things into existence just as He did when He created the world (Genesis 1:1, 3). Therefore, the promise of Abraham as father of many nations can only be fulfilled by God because the promise came from God. In other words, God is able to speak of future events. And Jesus Christ is able to establish God's plan with as much certainty as though they were already past. Abraham believed this! He believed that if it was necessary, God could create life in the organs of his and Sarah's dead bodies. He trusted and believed the promise of God. God was the source of his faith. Is He your source? Do you remember when he called the boy to life as He passed a funeral procession. And called Lazarus to life out of the tomb?

¹ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+4&version=ERV>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LESSON:

I. REASSURANCE OFFERED ROMANS 4:18-21

4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. Do you think this is a contradiction of ideas?—Abraham against hope, or beyond hope nevertheless believed in hope. Really, there was no reason to hope according to age; no human grounds to hope in regards to Abraham's wife Sarah of bearing a child, because it looked like hope was against them, but God is able in adverse, opposing, and contrary circumstances. Abraham believed in hope because he believed what God had spoken over him, that he might become "*the father of many nations.*" This is one of those "*Nevertheless*" moments! And "*So shall his seed*" (his descendants) be, for God is not leaving anyone out that's connected with Abraham.

4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:— Abraham's faith did not become weaker. He pushed through any negative thought. He didn't even consider the virility of his own body as already dead (his sexual capability) or age (almost 100yrs old). The word "*dead*" meant that his reproductive organs had stopped functioning. He and Sarah were too old to have children, and he didn't even consider the deadness of his wife, Sarah's womb. How confident is that?

4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;— The word "*staggered*" means to separate, falter, and waver, yet this tells us that Abraham's faith did not stagger or separate or waver from the promise of God through unbelief. He didn't have a divided mind. He looked to the promise of God having strong faith, giving glory to God. He praised God for his blessing before it even happened! I think we can also look at the fact that when God changed Abram's name (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many nations or of a multitude) it sparked an inward change, changing his beliefs to change in spite of what others may have thought. When God changes your name, it changes you from the inside out.

4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. This showed that Abraham was confident and assured; fully persuaded; on board and convinced that God was able to perform these things. God's Word is His bond! This reassurance offered to Abraham meant that God was able to perform it!

II. RIGHTEOUSNESS REALIZED ROMANS 4:22-25

4:22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. The word "*imputed*" means credited, put in one's account, to deposit. So, Abraham having this faith to believe God in the face of such adverse circumstances, he deposited his faith with God, and God credited Abraham's faith as righteousness.

When a person really believes by faith that Jesus Christ is his Savior, God takes that person's faith and counts it as righteousness. Mind you, the person is not righteous. He has no righteousness of his own. He is still imperfect, still sinful, still corruptible, still short of God's glory as a sinful human being. But he does believe that Jesus Christ is his Savior. Such belief honors God's Son (whom God loves very much) and because it honors God's Son, God accepts that person's faith for righteousness. God counts that person's faith as righteousness. Therefore, that person becomes acceptable to God.

God at the cross treated Christ as though He had committed our sins even though He was righteous. And when we believe in Christ, God treats us as though we are the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. The Bible calls this type of righteousness "*imputed righteousness*" which simply means God puts to our spiritual account the very worth of Christ, much as though He were a banker adding an inexhaustible deposit to our bank account!

We have won the (spiritual) lottery (if there is such a thing) and don't even know it, for there are those who refuse to believe that such an abundant blessing can be theirs as a free gift.

4:23-4:24 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;— I see two purposes of the recording of Abraham's faith here:

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



1. *That this was not written for Abraham's sake alone.* It was not recorded just to honor Abraham as a great man. It was written so that we might read and understand the account of faith and how we are to become acceptable to God.
2. *That this was written that we might believe and have the same righteousness imputed into our account.* In your heart believe that God raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. And to complete this, the end of Romans 10:9 says, *"Thou shalt be saved."* Through Jesus' unselfishness, He made such a gift happen.

4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. First of all: Romans 5:6 says, *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* Therefore, our offences had to be paid. And the wages of sin is death (Rom.6:23a). Because of our offences (trespasses/ sins) God handed Jesus over to die in our place and then raised Him up again to life for our justification (to justify and make us right with Him). Christ Jesus made us righteous with His righteousness. We give Christ our sins, and He gives us His righteousness. We have to realize that we have no righteousness of our own. And it's by Christ's righteousness we are justified. Justification is a free gift— provided through the redemption that's in Christ Jesus—not earned by man but by faith alone by the grace of God. We didn't deserve it.

SUMMARY:

ROMANS 4:18-25

There was no reason to hope according to age because it looked like hope was against them, but God is able in adverse, opposing, and contrary circumstances to have hope. Abraham believed in hope because he believed God; he believed as the promise of God was spoken to him: *that he might become the father of many nations. "So shall your seed be"*; his descendants be, for God is not leaving anyone out (**4:18**). Abraham's faith did not become weaker. He didn't even consider his own body as already dead— too old to have children; almost 100 years old. And his wife Sarah—too old at 99 years; and the deadness of her womb (**4:19**). Yet, he looked to the promise of God not wavering through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God (**4:20**). This showed that Abraham was confident and fully persuaded that God was able to perform these things (**4:21**). (**4:18-21**).

Therefore, according to Abraham's faith, God accounted Abraham to be righteous (**4:22**). This was not written for Abraham's sake alone; it is also for all of us who believe (**4:23**). We believe in the God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, then God will account us righteous also (**4:24**). Romans 5:6 says, *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* God handed Jesus over to die in our place and then raised Him up again to life for our justification (**4:25**). (**4:22-25**).

III. RESSURECTION ACCOMPLISH LUKE 24:1-9

24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. The first day of the week, very early in the morning Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women came to the tomb of Jesus expecting to anoint His body with the spices they had brought. The women strictly obeyed the observance of the Sabbath which caused them to do nothing to Jesus' body after His death until the day after the Sabbath. Jesus was in the grave on the Sabbath. He was dead. Therefore, the law and its observances had no authority over Jesus. To conclude: the women came the first day of the week, very early in the morning after the Sabbath, not knowing that this is the day when Christ arose!

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. The women found the stone rolled away from the tomb that had been sealed by the Roman guards. The stone had not been rolled back for the benefit of Jesus, but for the benefit of the witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus arose, He was in His resurrected body, the heavenly body of the spiritual dimension, and the spiritual dimension has no physical bounds.

24:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. The women, who were the witnesses needed to enter the tomb to see the truth. And upon seeing the stone rolled away, they went in and found not the Lord's body.

24:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:— This was puzzling to them—not seeing Jesus' body there, but they did see two men appear standing before them arrayed in dazzling robes.

24:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?— Seeing the two men caused the women to be afraid and they bowed their faces to the ground. The men were angelic beings saying unto them: *"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"*

24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,— The two angels made it plain telling the women that Jesus is not here. He has Risen and He is Alive! Jesus is not dead!

- Heaven witnessed that He lived (Heb.7:8).
- Scripture witnesses that He arose (Rom.1:4).
- He had foretold that He would arise (Lk.9:22).

The angels had to bring back to their remembrance of what Jesus had spoken unto them when He was with them in Galilee.

24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. This was not something that was unexpected. Jesus specifically told them what would happen (Lk.9:22). The followers of Jesus had always been confused about the prophecy of His death and resurrection. He was saying I have to die in order to rise. And that meant to be raised to life!

24:8 And they remembered his words,— The angels proclaimed the glorious news which made them remember. It finally clicked with them and the women remembered Jesus' Words. Conviction struck them and they became the very first witnesses to the resurrection.

24:9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. The women rushed from the tomb and shared the glorious news with the 11 disciples and to all the rest of what had occurred—Jesus is not there, and especially of the conversation with the angels. Resurrection Accomplished!

SUMMARY:

LUKE 24:1-9

The women came to the sepulcher early the first day of the week to anoint the body of Jesus, but found the stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body gone. Being bothered by this, they encountered two angelic beings who spoke to them. The women bowed with faces to the ground before them in fear. The angels reminded them of the words spoken by Jesus that on the third day He would arise. With this news they had to tell the apostles and the rest (**24:1-9**).