

Exegetical Notes - Romans 4:16-25

“The Promise Comes By Faith”

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Romans 4:16-25

Verses 1-17

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

- “Therefore” because of everything that was said about Abraham and his faith in God, we understand that the promise of salvation is a matter of God’s grace which is given to those who trust/believe in God.
- Abraham, then, is the father of those who are saved by grace through faith and not just the father of the Hebrew nation.
- God is the author of the promise! Salvation comes from him alone. He calls us from death into life if we trust, believe, in him.

Verses 18-22

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

- God promised Abraham that he would have offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky (Genesis 15:5) The name “Abraham” means “father of many.”

- Even though all of the circumstances indicated that God would not or could not keep his promise, Abraham trusted/believed that God would give him many offspring. Abraham was confident in God despite the circumstances of his life.

Verses 22-25

This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

- Abraham then becomes an example to teach us. God declared him righteous not because he followed the law, but because he trusted God in spite of all the circumstances which stood in the way of trusting God.
- So it is with us. Though it may seem improbable that God could raise Jesus from the dead, HE DID! And it is through Jesus that we are saved from death and given life. That is an act of God’s grace. We receive the effects of God’s grace, by trusting that it is as God said it is no matter what the circumstances may say.

**IF you want eternal life,
You must trust JESUS to give it to you!**

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Promise Comes By Faith*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Interim Senior/Lead Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)