

- 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 are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all (Romans 4.16)
- This is all so because, as he said in Rom. 2:29, **No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.**
- Christ did not come to reinstate and fix the Mosaic theocracy or to establish an earthly millennial Jewish kingdom, but to save Jewish and Gentile sinners and to make them, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, Abraham's children.
- The church of Jesus Christ, embracing the elect of God from both Jewish and Gentile backgrounds, is a part of the messianic kingdom of Christ.
- The modern Jewish state is not a part of the messianic kingdom of Jesus Christ. Even though Israel's civil government came into being under the sovereignty of God, it would be a denial of Jesus' affirmation that His kingdom is "not of this world order" (John 18:36) to assert the Jewish state of Israel is part of the Messianic kingdom.
- Canaan Land of the Old Testament served in a typological role as a model of the consummate realization of the purposes of God for his redeemed people that encompasses the whole of the cosmos.
- The messianic kingdom of Christ cannot include a distinctively Jewish aspect that would distinguish the peoples and practices of Jewish believers from their Gentile counterparts.
- Gentile and Jewish believers should diligently seek a unified ecclesiastical fellowship, worshipping as the one church of God, the true Israel of God.
- The promised messianic kingdom of Jesus Christ has come. It came with the arrival of the King of Kings when he was born in Bethlehem.
- The messianic kingdom is continuing to realize its fullness as elect Jews and Gentiles are added to the community of the redeemed in every generation.
- This messianic kingdom will be manifested in its final form with the return of Christ the King in all his glory.

Why did God ever make Abraham a Jew? Why did God create the nation of Israel?

- To teach all the world the Gospel => That all the world may know that God saves sinners and makes them new.
- God makes people new people, new creations, new ethnicities, they are no longer children of Adam but now they are children of God. **Romans 5:18!!!**
- Abraham is a real, living example of how to be saved no matter who you are!
- Romans 11:32 → Romans 15:8-13

circumcised, so the Gentiles could be saved, apart from circumcision, the Law of Moses, or Judaism.

- Just as circumcision did not contribute to the salvation of Abraham, neither did the Law. The Law of Moses would not be given for more than 400 years. It did not exist at the time of Abraham's justification by faith. And even if the Law were in existence at that time, it could not have saved Abraham. The Law cannot save. The Law cannot make any man righteous. The Law can only condemn men as sinners, worthy of God's eternal wrath. If the Law could justify men, it would nullify faith. Faith, however, does not nullify the Law. Faith brings about the imputation of the righteousness which the Law defines and demands, but which it cannot produce. The Law required perfect obedience; God's promise requires only faith.
- Faith enables God to save men, because it enables God to deal with men in accordance with grace. The wrath which the Law demands has been suffered by our Lord on Calvary. Having satisfied God's holy anger (propitiation, see 3:25), God can now deal with men in accordance with mercy and grace. God can prevent men from suffering the wrath they deserve and deal benevolently with men by giving them blessings they do not deserve.
- Abraham is therefore shown to be much more than the "father of the Jews." He is the "father of us all," the father of all believers. This too is in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, that he would be "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS" (verse 17, citing [Genesis 17:5](#)).

Paul is explaining the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul is really getting the focus off of Religion, off of man, and getting the focus on God.

- **Jesus Christ is the true Israel of God** and that **everyone who is united to him** by grace alone, through faith alone becomes, by virtue of that union, the true Israel of God. This means that it is wrong headed to look for, expect, hope for or desire a reconstitution of national Israel in the future.
- In Romans 4, Paul says that one is justified in the same way Abraham was justified, by grace alone, through faith in Jesus alone (Rom 4:3-8).
- What of the Gentiles then? Paul asks, "When was Abraham justified? Under what circumstances? Before or after he was circumcised? "It was not after, but before!" (Rom 4.11).
- So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. 12 And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised (Romans 4.11-12)
- Therefore, these two questions are absolutely connected. Justice before God "comes by faith" (Romans 4.16), not by law-keeping, not by being physically or ethnically Jewish,

13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. **14** For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15** For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. **16** That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, **17** as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Lesson Paul is teaching summarized:

- Paul asked the question in Romans 3: Is God only the God of the Jews, or is He the God of both the Jews and the Gentiles? Paul’s opponents might be willing to concede that God has always justified men on the basis of faith and not by works. But just who is eligible for justification? The Jews viewed themselves as a privileged group, with exclusive access to God’s blessings. If a Gentile wanted to be saved, he must first convert to Judaism. He must be circumcised, and then keep the Law of Moses (see [Acts 15](#)).
- In Romans 4 Paul is giving the biblical answer to the question → that God is God of all peoples, all nations, both Jew and Gentile.
- In Romans 4:9-17 Paul will turn to events in the life of Abraham, the “Father of the Jews,” to show that he is even more so “the father of all believers.” Paul turns to the rite of circumcision, which was the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant.¹²² He reminds his readers that Abraham was justified apart from works, without the Law, and years before he was circumcised. By Jewish definitions, Abraham was really a Gentile when he was saved.
- The first recorded promise of a son in the Book of Genesis was given at the time of Abraham’s call ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)). At that time, Abram was 75 years old (12:4). In [Genesis 15](#) we are told of a more specific promise of a son, of Abram’s belief, and of his justification by faith. It is almost as though we have been watching a motion picture. Suddenly, Paul shouts, “Stop the projector!,” right at [Genesis 15:6](#). He now asks the question, “Was Abraham circumcised here, at the time he was reckoned as righteous by God, or was it later?” We all know it was years later. Abraham’s circumcision is recorded in [Genesis 17](#), and we are told that he was then 99 years old. Abraham was justified by faith, apart from works, the Law, or circumcision. Let’s face it; Abraham was a Gentile when he was justified by faith. God is the God of all men, and not just of the Jews.
- Circumcision did not contribute in any way to Abraham’s salvation. It could not have done so. It was merely a sign, a seal. Circumcision played much the same role in Abraham’s day as baptism does in our day. It is only a visible token or sign of an invisible change, of salvation. Abraham’s circumcision testified to his justification by faith, apart from works. His circumcision, like his salvation, meant something very different than what the Jews made of it. If Abraham could be saved without being

Always been theologies that have tried to separate Jewish believers from Gentile believers.

- Such theologies are based on an erroneous view of Abraham's salvation and the promises made to Abraham.
- Such theologies are based on an erroneous view of salvation = whether you are speaking of Judaism, Judaizers, Arminianism, Dispensationalism, or even most Messianic Judaism today.

The Church in Rome was divided along Jewish v. Gentile lines.

- a fragmented church in Rome!! not good
- a fragmented church with erroneous doctrine means the gospel will not be preached!
- So in Romans Paul is correcting those errors.

The way he is doing that is by explaining that when it comes to Christianity, all believers are "new creations", a new race of people, and Abraham is the greatest example of that:

Romans 4:9 -- Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. **10** How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised.

- Here Paul is setting up the argument that Abraham became a child of God before God called upon him to be circumcised and form the Jewish ethnicity.
- that is important because = Abraham was saved by faith as a Gentile (non-Jew) = therefore all people who get saved (Jew or Gentile) must get saved the same way as Abraham → by faith, not religious heritage, or Jewish tradition, or any other distinction

11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, **12** and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

- You can clearly see Paul's point. → and remember why. It is to make sure that all Christians understand the *mission dei* (the mission of God) in this world.
- He wants all Christians of all ethnicities and backgrounds
 - to rejoice in the promises of God
 - and exalt Christ the King
 - and be kingdom minded
 - that the gospel may be represented amongst us and proclaimed by us
- We must live and preach the gospel of GRACE!
 - Even Abraham was saved by Grace through faith.
 - Not by the Law, not by being a Jew, not by religious works.

This Sunday = Hark The Herald Angels

<p>Verse 1</p> <p>Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With th'angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King</p>	<p>Verse 4</p> <p>Come Desire of nations come Fix in us Thy humble home Rise the woman's conq'ring seed Bruise in us the serpent's head Adam's likeness now efface Stamp Thine image in its place Second Adam from above Reinstate us in Thy love Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King</p>
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NEXT SUNDAY = Joy To the World

<p>Verse 1</p> <p>Joy to the world the Lord is come Let earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing And heaven and nature sing And heaven and heaven and nature sing</p>	<p>Verse 2</p> <p>Joy to the earth the Savior reigns Let men their songs employ While fields and floods Rocks hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy Repeat repeat the sounding joy</p>
<p>Verse 3</p> <p>No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found Far as the curse is found Far as far as the curse is found</p>	<p>Verse 4</p> <p>He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders and wonders of His love</p>

Or Emmanuel...

<p>Verse 1</p> <p>O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lowly exile here, Until the Son of God appear.</p>	<p>Verse 2</p> <p>O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</p>
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The True Ethnicity of all Christians

There are many promises in the Bible for God's children:

- **DWELL IN THE PROMISED LAND = Ps 37:3** - Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
- **SAFETY = Pr 1:33** - but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”
- **KNOW GOD'S COVENANT = Ps 25:14** - The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.
- **KEPT FROM EVIL = Ps 91:10** - no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.
- **PROTECTION = Ps 121:8**- The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.
- **VICTORY OVER ENEMIES = Isa 54:17** - no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”

REVIVAL = Isa 57:15 - For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

- **FAITHFULNESS OF GOD = Deuteronomy 31:8** - The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged
- **PROMISED TO INHABIT THE PROMISE LAND = Genesis 28:15** - "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
- **AN ETERNAL REIGN = Dan 7:18** - But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.

These are 10 random promises of God to Israel out of hundreds of promises on the Bible.

- some theologies teach that there is a distinction in the economy of God between Jews and Gentiles.
- any such theology is in error → and is harmful to both Jewish believers and Gentile believers → harmful to the church, and harmful to the gospel!!!
- that same theology believes that Christ hasn't established His Kingdom
- If that theology is true they shouldn't even be singing Christmas songs like we will sing this season: