

Galatians

Chapter 3:6-9

- I. **Galatians 3:6**⁶Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
 - a. Abraham
 - I. **So much has been said in this epistle so far about the gospel and the law. The judaizers were wanting to put the Gentiles under portions of the law...specifically Circumcision. Perhaps, part of using Abraham in this passage was someone whose faith was counted as righteousness and well before he was circumcised. Moses was the vessel chosen to dispense the law. Now, another name pops up that came before the law. Israel has always been proud of their lineage and tracing things back to “father” Abraham. The question is “Why does this matter to Gentiles and the body of Christ today?”**
 - II. **Abraham is unique in how he is referenced in different dispensations in different ways, but he has also been at the attack of accusations of Biblical contradictions. Is James contradicting Paul?**
 1. **Paul in Galatians and in Romans**
 - a. **Romans 4:1-5** ¹What shall we say then that **Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?** ²For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.³For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and **it** was counted unto him for righteousness. ⁴Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of

debt. ⁵But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

b. The “It” refers to believing and is being contrasted with work.

c. Believing counted as righteousness

2. James

a. James 2:21-24 ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²²Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

3. A timeline helps reconcile this. When did Abraham’s faith count as righteousness and when was Isaac offered?

a. 75 years old

i. Genesis 12:1-3 ¹Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

b. 86 years old- Ishmael born

i. Genesis 16:16¹⁶And

Abram *was* fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

c. 99 years old- Circumcised

i. Genesis 17:1¹And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

ii. Genesis 17:10-11¹⁰This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

iii. Romans 4:9-11⁹*Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. ¹¹And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

iv. Romans 4:16 ¹⁶Therefore *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,

d. 100 years old- Isaac Born

i. Genesis 21:5 ⁵And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

e. Before Sarah died at 127 which means Abraham was 137. Isaac was born when Abraham was 100. Isaac walked, talked and understood sacrifices. It is reasonable to think of an age around 25 for Isaac.

f. The events described in Galatians 3:6 and James 2 were probably at least 50 years apart.

g. James and Hebrews both tie obedience and works to faith in regards to Abraham. This was not an initial saving faith that is being described but a faith that produces works.

i. Hebrews 11:8-10 ⁸By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. ⁹By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ¹⁰For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

ii. **Hebrews 11:17-19**¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, ¹⁸Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

II. **Galatians 3:7**⁷Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

a. Therefore

I. **Paul's reminder that Abraham believed and it was counted as righteousness.**

II. **Acts 13:38-39**³⁸Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: ³⁹And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

III. **I Corinthians 15:1-4**¹Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

IV. **Ephesians 2:8-9**⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

b. They which are of faith

I. **Those who have placed their faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ to wash away their sins and His resurrection.**

c. Children of Abraham

- I. **The context is faith alone counted as righteousness. Abraham's faith was counted as righteousness. He was called a friend of God. Today, we are saved by faith through grace and have been reconciled to God. Those similarities are why the comparison is made. Not a physical seed, but spiritually by being reconciled by faith alone, apart from works.**
- II. **Les Feldick believes that Genesis 13:6 is referencing physical Israel who are looking for an Earthly kingdom. Dust comes from the earth. He believes that in Genesis 15:5 that when Abraham is told to look toward heaven and the stars which are heavenly, that it's a reference to the spiritual seed of the body of Christ who are a Heavenly people.**
 1. **Genesis 13:16** ¹⁶And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.
 2. **Genesis 15:5** ⁵And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
- III. **Paul references Abraham as a father. The gospel of John records Jesus speaking to the Pharisees. He calls them "seed" of Abraham,**
 - a. **John 8:37-44** ³⁷I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. ³⁸I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. ³⁹They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told

you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. ⁴¹Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God. ⁴²Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. ⁴⁴Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

b. John 8:56 ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

III. **Galatians 3:8**⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

a. Scripture

I. **Certain things were known. Certain things were hid. The gospel that Paul was preaching and the program of the dispensation of grace were kept hidden before the world began.**

1. **Romans 16:25** ²⁵Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

II. **Clearly Moses wrote (Holy Spirit through him) a few hundred years after the events that Abraham's (a Gentile) faith was counted as righteousness.**

1. **Genesis 15:6⁶** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

III. **Even though the mystery wasn't known, certain light was revealed.**

1. **Acts 26:22-23²²** Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: ²³That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

b. Preached before the gospel

I. **Don't get hung up on the word gospel. This epistle alone has talked about people being accursed that preach another gospel and mentions two different gospels in Galatians 2:7-9.**

II. **The gospel referred to is that "In thee shall all nations be blessed."**

1. **Genesis 22:17-18¹⁷** That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

IV. **Galatians 3:9⁹** So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

a. Blessed

I. **Abraham was told that his seed and the nations would be blessed because Abraham obeyed. Under the law, Israel was told in Deuteronomy 28-29 that if they obey then they will be blessed on the earth or if they disobey then they will be cursed on the earth.**

II. Our citizenship is in heaven. We have all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

- 1. Ephesians 1:6** ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
- 2. Colossians 2:10** ¹⁰And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
- 3. Ephesians 1:3** ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: