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## **God's Promise to Isaac and Jacob.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## God's Promises to Isaac and Jacob.

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### Topics.

- God will establish his everlasting covenant with Isaac.
- The LORD will bring to Abraham what he has promised him.
- Abraham sends his servant to get a bride for his son.
- God confirms his promise to Isaac and Jacob.
- The promises in the New Testament.
- The majestic glory of God's promise to Abraham in Romans.
- Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.
- God promised Abraham his seed would be heir of the world.
- God has made Abraham the father of many nations.
- God's promise to Abraham was Christ.

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### GENEALOGY OF ABRAHAM

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- **Genesis 11:27-32:** These are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. <sup>28</sup>Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup>And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup>Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. <sup>31</sup>Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup>The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

Terah the father of Abraham lived in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans. Terah left his homeland with Lot, Abram and Sarai (who was barren and had no children) and went to the land of Canaan and settled in Haran. After Terah died the LORD told Abram to leave Haran and go to the land that He will show him.

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### GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

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- **Genesis 12:1-3:** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

God promised Abraham that He would:

- Make of Abraham a great nation.
- Make Abrahams name great so that he would be a blessing to multitudes.
- Bless those who bless Abraham and bring ruin to those who dishonour him.
- Cause Abraham to be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

The promise God made to Abraham flows through the Old Testament, through the book of Revelation and continues to flow until Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace of earth. For details of this amazing, eternal and fantastic promise God gave to Abraham and to discover how it flows through the New Testament in majestic royal glory and affects Christians today see the title:

- God's Promise to Abraham was Eternal Life.

In Promises (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## **GOD WILL ESTABLISH HIS EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH ISAAC**

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- **Genesis 17:18-21:** Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"  
<sup>19</sup>God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his seed after him. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

Prior to these verses God has just told Abraham that his wife Sarah will have a son and Abraham thought in his heart, "Shall a child be born unto him that is a hundred years old and Sarah that is ninety years old, bear? (Gen 17:17) It appears because of Abrahams and Sarah's great age Abraham desired that Ishmael would be his heir. This would be easy to understand since Ishmael is about thirteen years old and grown up with Abraham in a father son relationship all those years, Abraham would have loved Ishmael as his own son, but God tells Abraham no his heir will not be Ishmael because He will establish His everlasting covenant with Sarah's son Isaac as and his seed after him.

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**NOTICE:** this is an eternal covenant which means it cannot be annulled the covenant is that in the seed of Abraham and the seed of Isaac all nations will be blessed. This is because the seed of Abraham and Isaac refers to the Lord Jesus Christ who came through the bloodline of Abraham.

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## **THE LORD WILL BRING TO ABRAHAM WHAT HE HAS PROMISED HIM**

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- **Genesis 18:18-19:** God said; Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? <sup>19</sup>For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

The LORD promised Abraham that through his seed he would become such a great and mighty nation that his offspring would be as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand upon the seashore and that all nations of the earth would be blessed in his seed. The words "All nations" means that it is not just the nation of Israel that God is going to bless in the seed of Abraham, but people from all languages and nations.

This is one of the mysteries that were hidden (not clearly understood) to the fathers of the Old Testament and has now been clearly revealed through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Up until this time the Jews believed they were the chosen and holy race (based on religious works) with God, and the Gentile nations were an unclean race without God. But now through the everlasting covenant and the promised seed of Abraham (the Lord Jesus Christ) God is doing a new thing in the

earth and establishing a new nation and a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. Paul wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28).

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## THE SECOND TIME THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM

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- **Genesis 22:15-18:** And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies <sup>18</sup>and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

The following three events shine a spotlight on Abraham's great faith:

1. When God called Abraham to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance he obeyed by faith and went out not knowing where he was going and by faith went and lived in the land of promise as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. Abraham by faith left all to follow God's call because by faith he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God (Heb. 11:8-10).
2. Abraham when he was as good as dead (Heb. 11:12) by faith believe God's promise that his loved wife Sarah who was far past the age of bearing children would have a son.
3. By faith when Abraham was tested, offered up Isaac his only son in who he had received God's promise that through Isaac his seed would be named and all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

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Abraham would have been fully aware that had he sacrificed his only son Isaac it would have been impossible for God's to fulfil His everlasting covenant and promise to him that He would multiply his seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore and to fulfil His promise that his seed would rule over all his enemies. But the author of Hebrews tells us that Abrahams faith was such that he considered that God was able even to raise Isaac back from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back (Heb. 11:17-19). Is it any wonder God counted Abraham righteous because of his faith and made him the father of faith?

**NOTE:** God didn't make Abraham the father of faith because he strictly adhered to ceremonial rites and holy days or because he kept religious customs and traditions etc., but because he walked in a devoted, trusting heartfelt relationship with God. Likewise it is with Christians today, whoever faithfully walks with God by faith in Christ trusting in his righteousness to be counted worthy (in contrast to trusting in self-effort and religious works and traditions) and trust in God's grace to be saved will be counted by God as righteous as Abraham the father of faith was. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value. Equally as horrific as this Paul states, "When we forsake grace, we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by grace that God made us alive in Christ" (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5). Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that, "It is only by grace that any brother or sister has been saved" (Eph. 2:8). Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant

spotlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God". This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means that in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them.

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## ABRAHAM SENDS HIS SERVANT TO GET A BRIDE FOR HIS SON

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- **Genesis 24:7:** The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me (Abraham) from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, to your seed I will give this land he will send his angel before you (Abrahams oldest servant), and you shall take a wife for my son (Isaac) from there.

The following is a brief overview of this story: when Abraham was well advanced in years (v1) he desired a wife for his son Isaac, but does not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman so he tells his eldest servant who ruled over all he had and is also a worshipper of the God of Abraham to go into the land of his kindred and find a wife for Isaac. The servant asks Abraham, "What should I do if the woman is not willing to follow me should I take Isaac back to the land you came out of." Abraham tells him no; he must not take Isaac back to the land God has brought them out of. Then tells him that God will send his angel before him and guide him to the woman he is to take for a wife for Abrahams son and if she is not willing the servant is released from all that Abraham asked of him concerning taking a bride for his son.

Abraham then confirms to him again that if the woman is not willing to follow him then he must not take Isaac back to the land God brought them out of. The servant went as Abraham had asked and came across Rebekah who was very fair to look upon a virgin neither had any man known her. The servant told her and her family all the words of Abraham concerning his son Isaac. Rebekah's family said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And Rebekah even though she had never seen Isaac said, "I will go." Clearly showing that she fully trusted all the words that Abraham's servant spoke and was by faith willing to leave all and follow the faithful servant who had been sent by his godly master. Rebekah arose, left all and rode upon a camel willingly following the servant who took her to her future husband. When Isaac saw he loved her and she became his wife. (The full story is in Genesis chapter 24)

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## THE GLORY OF BIBLE SYMBOLISM

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Here is the glory, beauty and wonder of Bible language; since the servant is not named this story can be seen as a type God the Father sending the Holy Spirit to find a bride (the faithful church) for His Son. Abraham told his servant (a type of the Holy Spirit), "If the woman the servant finds for Isaac's bride is not willing to follow him, he is not to force her to go with him. Likewise, God's eyes are always searching for a faithful bride for his Son, but will never force anyone to follow him. Added to this Abraham told his servant, "If the woman refuses to follow the servant, he was not to take Isaac back to the place God brought him out of. Likewise, no brother or sister in Christ should return to what the Lord has delivered them from.

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## ABRAHAM'S DEATH

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Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham together in a cave at Machpelah. He died when he was one-hundred and seventy-five years old and was gathered to his people. The Scripture states that he died in a good old age and as an old man full of years (Gen. 25:7-9).

- **Genesis 25:23-26:** the LORD said to Rebekah "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger." <sup>24</sup>When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup>The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup>Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

God placed high honour on the firstborn son it was a privileged position and because of this the Jewish nation held the first-born son in high esteem. These verses shine a spotlight on the glory and majesty of God's eternal foreknowledge and Bible prophecy. Before Rebekah's children were born the LORD tells her that she will have twins and that the older son will serve the younger son. Esau the older son not only placed no value on the fact he was the firstborn, but sold his God given rights to Jacob the younger son for a bowl of food. Later God changed Jacobs name to Israel (Gen. 32:26-28) and from his loved wife Rachael and her servant Bilhah and his wife Leah and her servant Zipah came twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel who became the nation of Israel.

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## GOD CONFIRMS HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM WITH HIS SON ISAAC

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- **Genesis 26:2-5:** the LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. <sup>3</sup>Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your seed I will give all these lands and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. <sup>4</sup>I will multiply your seed as the stars OF heaven and will give to your seed all these lands. And in your seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, <sup>5</sup>because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

**Sojourn:** carries the idea of staying in a place as a guest.

God tells Isaac:

- He will be with him and give to his seed all the land (i.e., of Canaan).
- He will establish the oath that I swore to Isaacs father Abraham.
- He will multiply Isaacs's seed as the stars of heaven.
- In Isaacs's seed all nations of the earth shall be blessed (i.e., Jew and Gentile).

This eternal promise was partially fulfilled under the rule of David and Solomon (known as the golden years of Israel), but the complete fulfilment of the promise is still flowing through history even today and will continue to flow until the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb



will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## **GOD CONFIRMS THE PROMISE HE MADE TO ABRAHAM WITH JACOB**

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- **Genesis 35:9-12:** God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. <sup>10</sup>And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. <sup>12</sup>The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you and I will give the land to your seed after you."

God's words to Jacob, "A nation and a company of nations shall come from him" shine a glorious spotlight on the majestic glory of God's foreknowledge. The nation that came from Jacob is the nation of Israel and the nations that came from him refer to the Gentile nations in Christ. Here is the beauty and glory of the Bible; God changed Jacobs name to Israel Jacob gave birth to twelve sons, they became the twelve tribes of Israel who became the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel gave birth to Christ and since Christ's death and resurrection God is creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. It is in this sense that the nation of Israel and a multitude of nations made up of both Jews and Gentiles in Christ, have come from Jacob.

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## **GOD TELLS JACOB HE WILL MAKE HIM A GREAT NATION**

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- **Genesis 46:2-4:** God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "I am God, the God of your Father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt for there I will make you into a great nation. <sup>4</sup>I myself will go down with you to Egypt and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

Jacob and his sons went into Egypt (called the house of bondage) and after four-hundred- and thirty-years God used Moses as a mighty deliverer to miraculously bring the people of Jacob (now called Israel) out of bondage and the nation of Israel was born. This is great encouragement to brothers and sisters in Christ who are surrounded by the world and suffering or struggling with the hardship and troubles of life. Why some might wonder? Simply this, just because a believer in Christ is suffering in some manner does not mean that God has forsaken them. The sons of Jacob and their families were under bondage in Egypt (a symbol of the world for over four-hundred years), but all the while God was working His eternal purpose amongst them and when God did bring them out by a mighty hand, He called them his treasured possession. Likewise, every brother and sister in Christ who endures in faith despite persecution, hardships and troubles in this world will be welcomed as the God's treasured possession when Christ their mighty deliver and Saviour returns.

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## **GOD CONFIRMS THE PROMISE HE MADE WITH ABRAHAM TO JACOB**

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- **Genesis 48:3-4:** Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, <sup>4</sup>and said to me, 'Behold, 'I will make you fruitful and multiply you and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your seed after you for an everlasting possession.

Jacob tells Joseph of the promise God had made to him. God promised Jacob:

- He will multiply the people of Jacob.
- He will give the land of Canaan to the seed of Jacob after he dies forever.

This is the eternal promise God gave to Abraham.

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## **GOD'S PROMISE, TO ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB**

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- **Genesis 50:24:** Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."

This is why God is often called the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, because it was to them, he gave his eternal promise and it is through this promise that God's everlasting plans and purposes for mankind's salvation that He purposed in his eternal mind before the ages began is majestically working. Following are further Scriptures concerning God's eternal promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- Moses told Israel that it was because of the great wickedness of the nation's living in the promised land that God will go before them and drive them out and not because of their own righteousness and to confirm the promise He swore to their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Deut. 9:5).
- When Israel entered the land that God had promised them for an inheritance and taken possession of it they were to go to the priest and say to him, "I declare today that we have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us for an inheritance (Deut. 26:1-3). (This chapter gives the history of Israel).
- The entire nation of Israel stood before the LORD their God and entered into the sworn covenant which God made with them so that He might, establish them as His people and be their God as he promised them and as he swore to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Deut. 29:10-15).



- When God was about to destroy Israel because they had made a golden calf and worshipped it as the God of Israel, Moses asks the LORD to remember the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac and to Jacob (now called Israel) in which He swore that He would multiply their offspring as the stars of heaven and to remember His promise that their seed would inherit the land forever and the LORD relented from the disaster that He had spoken of bringing on His people (Exod. 32:11-14).
- The LORD told Moses to go with the people who he has brought out of Egypt to the land that He had promised to give to the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exod. 33:1).

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## NEW TESTAMENT

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### ABRAHAM RECEIVED NO INHERITANCE IN THE PROMISED LAND

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- **Acts 7:4-6:** Stephen told the Jews: Abraham went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran and after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you (Israel) are now living. <sup>5</sup>Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his seed after him, though he had no child. <sup>6</sup>And God spoke to this effect—that his seed would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years.

God gave Abraham no inheritance in the land, but he promised to give it to him and his seed after him. Abraham gave birth to Isaac; Isaac gave birth to Jacob who gave birth to twelve sons. They and their families went into Egypt for four hundred years and then God delivered them by a mighty hand and the nation of Israel was born. The twelve sons of Jacob became the twelve tribes of Israel. In this manner God's promise that Abraham's seed after him would possess the Promised Land came to pass, but as the following verses of Paul show that God's promise to Abraham was only partially fulfilled since God promised him that his seed would be the heir of the world and not just the Promised Land of Canaan.

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## ROMANS

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### ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS

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- **Romans 4:1-5:** What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

Paul brilliantly used a boss and an employee to highlight the glory of God's promise and the Christian faith. Paul is saying if we do a day's work for an employer then he owes us a day's wages it is our rightful due, but if we are given a day's wages without working it is a gift since we have done absolutely nothing to earn it. God's gift of righteousness that leads to eternal life works under this same principal, we cannot earn righteousness by self-effort and works it is a pure and free gift God imputes to all who have faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we give a gift to a person, they have done nothing to earn it, this is why it is called a gift, and it is upon this principal that Christian salvation works. Not one of us can stand before God's perfect Holiness without sin, if any of us could attain to this glorious state Christ died for no purpose. It should always be remembered Jesus didn't lay his life down to a brutal bloody and cruel death so that we could attain in our flesh to God's Holiness, but because we couldn't. This is why God in His eternal mind

before the ages began planned and purposed that mankind's salvation would rest upon faith and grace and not self-effort and religious works. We are not saved by our righteousness, but by Christ's righteousness.

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## FAITH WAS COUNTED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS

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- **Romans 4:9-12:** Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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.

God made a covenant with Abraham and his offspring saying:

- Every male among you shall be circumcised and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised it shall be an everlasting covenant and any male who is not circumcised shall be cut off from Israel because he has broken my covenant" (Gen. 17:10-14) (Gen. 17:23-27).

Though circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Israel many in the Jewish faith had turned it into the means of salvation (i.e., as long as they were circumcised, they were right with God). This is one of the reasons for the lack of the fruits of the Spirit amongst many of the religious rulers of Jesus and Paul's generations. Paul is using the fact that Abraham's faith was counted to him as righteousness before he was circumcised to prove to the unbelieving and doubting Jews and by extension all of us that though outward works maybe a sign of righteousness, no-matter how good they maybe they are not what makes us righteous before God, but our faith that God counts as our royal robe of righteousness. Paul points out that circumcision was a seal/sign, but clearly not what made Abraham righteous since he was already counted as righteous prior to his circumcision clearly showing that even good works are only an evidence of the righteousness that is acceptable to God and that leads to eternal life. The purpose faith is what God counts as righteousness is so that everyone Jew and Gentile can attain by faith not works to this standard of righteousness since we are all born with sinful aberrations and dysfunction that limit us from attaining to the perfect standard of the righteousness of the Most Holy God. This is why we are saved by faith and grace and not works. Paul is telling the Jews that even though they are circumcised they are still called to walk in faith as Abraham did to be counted righteousness. Abraham did not become the father of many nations by works, but by faith.

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## GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM HIS SEED WOULD BE HEIR OF THE WORLD

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- **Romans 4:13-16:** For the promise to Abraham and his seed that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his seed —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.

The Scriptures proclaim; all the world is held accountable to God and everyone transgresses the universal law which states, "The wages of sin is death" which means that wrath in the context of these verses refers to death and ultimately judgment to eternal death for those cast into the Lake of Fire (Rom. 3:19) (Rom. 3:23) (Rom. 6:23) (Rev. 20:11-15). This is why God could not base the promise to Abraham on works, because all

of us have sinful aberrations and dysfunctions dwelling within that cause us to transgress the law and to sin that is why God's promise had to be based on faith and not works of the law. God knowing that no human on planet earth could attain to the perfect standard of righteousness acceptable to Him by works and live a life totally free of sin (if we could Christ died for no purpose)made the promise based on faith and grace so it was not dependent on our works or self-effort and therefore could not fail.

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## GOD HAS MADE ABRAHAM THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS

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- **Romans 4:17-19:** 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. <sup>18</sup>In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your seed be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

God calls into existence the things that do not exist refer:

- To creation.
- To the barrenness of Sarah's womb and her giving birth to Isaac.
- To the signs and wonders God by His Spirit worked through Jesus.

To bringing prophecy to pass especially the promise to Abraham.

- To calling into existence at the right time the dead at the resurrection.

Abraham is the father of many nations (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) because the true seed of Abraham is the Lord Jesus Christ who came through the bloodline of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Abraham though no-doubt a good man was still human with sinful aberrations and dysfunctions dwelling within his members as we all have, this is why it is not by works that God counts us righteous but because of faith which is the reason righteousness that leads to eternal life is spoken of as a pure and free gift.

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## ABRAHAM WAS CONVINCED THAT GOD WAS ABLE TO DO WHAT HE HAD PROMISED

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- **Romans 4:20-25:** No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup>who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Justification in this context means being declared innocent acquitted and set free because of faith in Christ. Abraham believed God and God counted that faith as his righteous. Paul in this chapter is using the faith of Abraham to shine a spotlight on the truth that righteous that leads to eternal life does not come by self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions, but by faith alone. Paul is highlighting the truth that it is by faith and not works that God counts a person righteous. This is why faithful Christians say they are saved by grace and not by works and why not one of us can boast that by our own self-effort we have earned righteous. It was because of Abraham's great faith that God counted him righteous; he believed God and God counted that faith as his righteousness. Acceptable righteousness before God does not come by self-effort and adhering to religious practises but by faith.

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## THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION

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Abraham; despite the oldness of his body and the barrenness of Sarah's womb believed God would keep His promise that he would have a son from his own body and the wife he loved. Today our righteousness comes by believing God's promise that despite the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that dwell within our fallen body if we trust in God's promise that He will count us righteousness because of our faith in his Son and trust in His grace we will be saved to eternal life.

Paul warns us not to be ill-informed of this righteousness that comes from God and begin to go about trying to establish our own righteousness (by self-effort and religious works etc.) rather than submitting to God's righteousness which comes through faith in Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom. 10:3-10). This means that the righteousness that leads to salvation and eternal life has nothing to do with the law, self-effort, good works or the adherence to ceremonial rites, holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions, rather our faith is our righteousness it is like a royal robe that God has clothed us in, not because we are deserving of it or done anything to earn it, but because of our faith in His Son.

**NOTE:** some may ask as the Jews did (at the end of Romans chapter three), "If salvation is a free gift and has nothing to do with the law, why not do away with it and do as we please? (Rom. 3:31). Paul answers this question in Romans chapter six where he asks a similar question, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?" To see what Paul's answer to this question is, see:

- Romans 6 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## GALATIANS

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### GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM WAS CHRIST

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- **Galatians 3:16:** Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his seed. It does not say, and to seeds referring to many, but referring to one, And to your seed who is Christ.

This verse clearly shows that the promised seed of Abraham is the Lord Jesus Christ. The word seed can be collective or singular the context it is used in will determine whether the writer is referring to one or using it collectively.

**NOTE;** some may think that the promise made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul brilliantly and skilfully explains in (Gal. 3:16) that the promises embraced all nations (Jews and Gentiles) and proclaimed, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27) the many in this context includes both the Jews and the Gentiles.

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## THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

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It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

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## THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION

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The practical application of what this means for all who belong to Christ, is that all the future and eternal promises that God made to Israel, also applies to them.

The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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