

Romans

**The Righteousness of God
proven through Messiah,
King Jesus**

Romans

- *1:18-3:20 = You have the wrong One on trial*
 - *Despite this the Judge willingly lowers to floor level*
 - *Jews assume they are sealed eternally by possessing Torah*
 - *3:21 = Argument begins – all guilty but we are acquitted by Jesus' blood*
 - *Paul then call his 1st witness – Abraham & looks at the original contract that defines relationship with God*
 - *Abe is founding father, had faith & God credited him righteous as a gift, did it when he was a Gentile*
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- *Paul then calls his 2nd witness – David*
 - *David was guilty too & God cannot ignore this*
 - *So He doesn't – He simply allows Jesus to acquit him thru His blood*
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- Romans 4:9-12

Does all this about Abraham & David apply only to Jews?

Answer = Abraham gained this “membership” with God BEFORE he was circumcised

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- Romans 4:13-15

Vs. 14 – The Torah came AFTER the promise was given by God (it cannot come in then & nullify the original agreement)

Vs. 15 – The Torah shows Israel to be guilty before God & their sin produces a justified response of wrath (reaction by God) to make it right

If the Promise is only for Israel then nobody gets in!

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Original question in 4:1 = “What then shall we say? Have we found Abraham to be our forefather according to the flesh?”

Question - Whether covenant membership with God means you have to be from the Physical family of Abraham?

- Romans 4:16-17
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Romans 4:16-17

The original covenant, the original contract, that which defines the covenant membership of belonging to God is:

- *Based upon faith*
 - *As a gift from God whereby He acquits the guilty*
 - *And it is for everyone since the agreement was established with a GENTILE - Who was the 1st in God's covenant family BTW*
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Romans 4:16-17

And this says a lot about God:

- *He steps in for the guilty party to exonerate them*
 - *He raises those sentenced in death*
 - *“Call into being that which does not exist” = calls things that are NOT as though they were*
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Apocrypha book of Sirach 44:19-21 (written during 400 years between testaments)

Abraham was the great father of a multitude of nations, and no one has been found like him in glory. He kept the Law of the Most High, & entered into a covenant with Him; he certified the covenant in his flesh (circumcision), & when he was tested (willing to sacrifice Isaac) he proved faithful. Therefore the Lord assured him with an oath (read covenant membership) that the nations would be blessed through his offspring; that he would make him as numerous as the dust on the earth, & exalt his offspring like the stars & give them an inheritance from sea to sea & from the Euphrates to the ends of the earth.

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Romans 4:18-21



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4:17 Abraham believed in God the life-giver, the Creator, the Originator	1:20, 25 God the Creator ignored by humans
4:19 Abraham's body as good as dead, yet he believed in God's gracious promise of new life	1:24 Human bodies dishonored because of idolatry (seeking good apart from God)
4:20 Abraham gave glory to God	1:21 Humans did not glorify God as God
4:21 Abraham recognized God's power	1:20 Humans knew about God's power by simply seeing His creation but refused to recognize Him in worship
4:19 Abraham & Sarah given power to conceive	1:26-27 The dishonoring of bodies by females & males & turning from one another

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Romans 4:22

Romans 3:23-24 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus”

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Romans 4:23-24

Point = *Those who believe the Gospel Story of God, which involves believing in the God that raised Jesus from the dead are thereby sharing in the same covenant agreement with Abraham*

Result = *They will be reckoned (credited) righteous before the Holy Judge*

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Romans 4:25

This is the great undoing of the guilt Paul established for all of us in 1:18-3:20

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Isaiah 53 (concentrate on verse 11)

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

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The events of Messiah Jesus unveil the covenant faithfulness and saving justice of God...God has made good on what He promised to Abraham:

- Promises were designed to redeem mankind by creating a world-wide family whose individual lives had required a just response of guilt
 - This verdict of guilt has been fully removed thru the sacrificial death & resurrection of the Messiah Jesus
 - Through the faithfulness of Jesus God as thus fulfilled the purpose given to Israel
 - Torah cannot accomplish this but instead exposes the utter sinfulness of mankind
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The events of Messiah Jesus unveil the covenant faithfulness and saving justice of God...God has made good on what He promised to Abraham cont.:

- Accomplished only by a supreme act of graciousness on God's part
- The covenant with Abraham is fulfilled in the creation of a worldwide family marked out by their Abraham like faith
- God's faithfulness overcomes the faithlessness of people

Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more

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1. Who is the God of Abraham? The God who raised Jesus from the dead

2. Who are the children of Abraham? Those whose faith rests on the God who raised Abraham from the dead thru Isaac... And who raised Jesus from the dead through the Spirit

3. And whom among the guilty does God acquit? Those whom Jesus pays the debt and declares righteous

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Final thoughts:

- *Every time we try to associate our lifestyle with our standing with God we are attempting to nullify the original contract He made with Abraham*
 - *When we link our standing before/with God with our lifestyle (read Torah) it will turn right back around and condemn us*
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