

BOOK TO THE ROMANS
THE GOSPEL [GOOD NEWS] OF GOD
JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH
JUSTIFIES BY FAITH STATED AND ILLUSTRATED

1. ABRAHAM 340 YEARS BEFORE THE LAW WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.
 - A. ROMANS 4:1- WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY THAT ABRAHAM, OUR FOREFATHER, DISCOVERED IN THIS MATTER? [2] IF, IN FACT, ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED BY WORKS, HE HAD SOMETHING TO BOAST ABOUT--BUT NOT BEFORE GOD. [3] WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."
 - I. PAUL IS SHOWING THAT ABRAM WAS A RANK HEATHEN, GENTILE, WHEN GOD PARDONED HIM.
 - (1) GENESIS 12:1-3 THE LORD HAD SAID TO ABRAM, "LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD AND GO TO THE LAND I WILL SHOW YOU. [2] "I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. [3] I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND WHOEVER CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."
 - (2) GENESIS 15:6 ABRAM BELIEVED THE LORD, AND HE CREDITED IT TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 - (3) GENESIS 17:1-14 WHEN ABRAM WAS NINETY-NINE YEARS OLD, THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM AND SAID, "I AM GOD ALMIGHTY; WALK BEFORE ME AND BE BLAMELESS. [2] I WILL CONFIRM MY COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND WILL GREATLY INCREASE YOUR NUMBERS." [3] ABRAM FELL FACE DOWN, AND GOD SAID TO HIM, [4] "AS FOR ME, THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH YOU: YOU WILL BE THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS. [5] NO LONGER WILL YOU BE CALLED ABRAM; YOUR NAME WILL BE ABRAHAM, FOR I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS. [6] I WILL MAKE YOU VERY FRUITFUL; I WILL MAKE NATIONS OF YOU, AND KINGS WILL COME FROM YOU. [7] I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT AS AN EVERLASTING COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME, TO BE YOUR GOD AND THE GOD OF YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU. [8] THE WHOLE LAND OF CANAAN, WHERE YOU ARE NOW AN ALIEN, I WILL GIVE AS AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION TO YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD." [9] THEN GOD SAID TO ABRAHAM, "AS FOR YOU, YOU MUST KEEP MY COVENANT, YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME. [10] THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU, THE COVENANT YOU ARE TO KEEP: EVERY MALE AMONG YOU SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED. [11] YOU ARE TO UNDERGO CIRCUMCISION, AND IT WILL BE THE SIGN OF THE COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU. [12] FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME EVERY MALE AMONG YOU WHO IS EIGHT DAYS OLD MUST BE CIRCUMCISED, INCLUDING THOSE BORN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR BOUGHT WITH MONEY FROM A FOREIGNER--THOSE WHO ARE NOT YOUR OFFSPRING. [13] WHETHER BORN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR BOUGHT WITH YOUR MONEY, THEY MUST BE CIRCUMCISED. MY COVENANT IN YOUR FLESH IS TO BE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT. [14] ANY UNCIRCUMCISED MALE, WHO HAS NOT BEEN CIRCUMCISED IN THE FLESH, WILL BE CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE; HE HAS BROKEN MY COVENANT."
 - II. THE LAW NOT YET GIVEN.
 - (1) GALATIANS 3:16-17 THE PROMISES WERE SPOKEN TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS SEED. THE SCRIPTURE DOES NOT SAY "AND TO SEEDS," MEANING MANY PEOPLE, BUT "AND TO YOUR SEED," MEANING ONE PERSON, WHO IS CHRIST. [17] WHAT I MEAN IS THIS: THE LAW, INTRODUCED 430 YEARS LATER, DOES NOT SET ASIDE THE COVENANT PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY GOD AND THUS DO AWAY WITH THE PROMISE.
 - III. IF ABRAM CAN BE BLESSED WITH OUT CEREMONY LAW SO CAN GENTILES. NO NEED TO CIRCUMCISE.
2. ALL MEN CAN BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH WITHOUT LAW AND WORKS
 - A. ROMANS 4:[4] NOW WHEN A MAN WORKS, HIS WAGES ARE NOT CREDITED TO HIM AS A GIFT, BUT

AS AN OBLIGATION. [5] HOWEVER, TO THE MAN WHO DOES NOT WORK BUT TRUSTS GOD WHO JUSTIFIES THE WICKED, HIS FAITH IS CREDITED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I. REMISSION OF SINS THROUGH CHRIST FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE.

(1) ACTS 10:43 ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY ABOUT HIM [JESUS] THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM RECEIVES FORGIVENESS OF SINS THROUGH HIS NAME."

II. THE DOCTRINES FOUND IN PETER'S SERMON

(1) GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

(A) ACTS 10:34 THEN PETER BEGAN TO SPEAK: "I NOW REALIZE HOW TRUE IT IS THAT GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM

(B) EPHESIANS. 6:9 AND MASTERS, TREAT YOUR SLAVES IN THE SAME WAY. DO NOT THREATEN THEM, SINCE YOU KNOW THAT HE WHO IS BOTH THEIR MASTER AND YOURS IS IN HEAVEN, AND THERE IS NO FAVORITISM WITH HIM.

(C) 1 PETER 1:17 SINCE YOU CALL ON A FATHER WHO JUDGES EACH MAN'S WORK IMPARTIALLY, LIVE YOUR LIVES AS STRANGERS HERE IN REVERENT FEAR.

(2) TWO CONDITIONS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

(A) FEAR GOD

(I) LUKE 12:5 BUT I WILL SHOW YOU WHOM YOU SHOULD FEAR: FEAR HIM WHO, AFTER THE KILLING OF THE BODY, HAS POWER TO THROW YOU INTO HELL. YES, I TELL YOU, FEAR HIM.

(II) ACTS 10:35 BUT ACCEPTS MEN FROM EVERY NATION WHO FEAR HIM AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

(B) WORK RIGHTEOUSNESS BY OBEYING THE GOSPEL PROGRAM

(I) ACTS 10:35

(II) JAMES 1:1-27 [2] CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS, WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS, [3] BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH DEVELOPS PERSEVERANCE. [4] PERSEVERANCE MUST FINISH ITS WORK SO THAT YOU MAY BE MATURE AND COMPLETE, NOT LACKING ANYTHING. [5] IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, HE SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM. [6] BUT WHEN HE ASKS, HE MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE HE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND. [7] THAT MAN SHOULD NOT THINK HE WILL RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THE LORD; [8] HE IS A DOUBLE-MINDED MAN, UNSTABLE IN ALL HE DOES. [9] THE BROTHER IN HUMBLE CIRCUMSTANCES OUGHT TO TAKE PRIDE IN HIS HIGH POSITION. [10] BUT THE ONE WHO IS RICH SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN HIS LOW POSITION, BECAUSE HE WILL PASS AWAY LIKE A WILD FLOWER. [11] FOR THE SUN RISES WITH SCORCHING HEAT AND WITHERS THE PLANT; ITS BLOSSOM FALLS AND ITS BEAUTY IS DESTROYED. IN THE SAME WAY, THE RICH MAN WILL FADE AWAY EVEN WHILE HE GOES ABOUT HIS BUSINESS. [12] BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO PERSEVERES UNDER TRIAL, BECAUSE WHEN HE HAS STOOD THE TEST, HE WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE THAT GOD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. [13] WHEN TEMPTED, NO ONE SHOULD SAY, "GOD IS TEMPTING ME." FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL, NOR DOES HE TEMPT ANYONE; [14] BUT EACH ONE IS TEMPTED WHEN, BY HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE, HE IS DRAGGED AWAY AND ENTICED. [15] THEN, AFTER DESIRE HAS CONCEIVED, IT GIVES BIRTH TO SIN; AND SIN, WHEN IT IS FULL-GROWN, GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH. [16] DON'T BE DECEIVED, MY DEAR BROTHERS. [17] EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF THE HEAVENLY LIGHTS, WHO DOES NOT CHANGE LIKE SHIFTING SHADOWS. [18] HE CHOSE TO GIVE US BIRTH THROUGH THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE MIGHT BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL HE CREATED. [19] MY DEAR BROTHERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY, [20] FOR MAN'S ANGER DOES NOT BRING ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS LIFE THAT GOD DESIRES. [21] THEREFORE, GET RID OF ALL MORAL FILTH AND THE EVIL THAT IS SO PREVALENT AND HUMBLY ACCEPT THE WORD PLANTED IN YOU, WHICH CAN SAVE YOU. [22] DO NOT MERELY LISTEN TO THE WORD, AND SO DECEIVE

YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS. [23] ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORD BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT IT SAYS IS LIKE A MAN WHO LOOKS AT HIS FACE IN A MIRROR [24] AND, AFTER LOOKING AT HIMSELF, GOES AWAY AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. [25] BUT THE MAN WHO LOOKS INTENTLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, AND CONTINUES TO DO THIS, NOT FORGETTING WHAT HE HAS HEARD, BUT DOING IT--HE WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT HE DOES. [26] IF ANYONE CONSIDERS HIMSELF RELIGIOUS AND YET DOES NOT KEEP A TIGHT REIN ON HIS TONGUE, HE DECEIVES HIMSELF AND HIS RELIGION IS WORTHLESS. [27] RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE AND FAULTLESS IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS AND TO KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD.

(C) GOD SENT CHRIST TO ISRAEL

- (i) MATTHEW 10:6 GO RATHER TO THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL.
- (ii) JOHN 1:11 HE CAME TO THAT WHICH WAS HIS OWN, BUT HIS OWN DID NOT RECEIVE HIM.
- (iii) ACTS 10:36-37 YOU KNOW THE MESSAGE GOD SENT TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, TELLING THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS LORD OF ALL. [37] YOU KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED THROUGHOUT JUDEA, BEGINNING IN GALILEE AFTER THE BAPTISM THAT JOHN PREACHED--

(D) CHRIST IS THE LORD OF ALL

- (i) ACTS 10:36
- (ii) ACTS 2:36 "THEREFORE LET ALL ISRAEL BE ASSURED OF THIS: GOD HAS MADE THIS JESUS, WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST."

(E) CHRIST CAME PREACHING PEACE

- (i) ACTS 10:36
- (ii) LUKE 2:14 "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE TO MEN ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS."
- (iii) JOHN 14:27 PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE YOU. I DO NOT GIVE TO YOU AS THE WORLD GIVES. DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.

(F) THE GOSPEL DISPENSATION BEGAN WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST

- (i) ACTS 10:37
- (ii) MATTHEW 11:11 I TELL YOU THE TRUTH: AMONG THOSE BORN OF WOMEN THERE HAS NOT RISEN ANYONE GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST; YET HE WHO IS LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS GREATER THAN HE.
- (iii) LUKE 16:16 "THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS WERE PROCLAIMED UNTIL JOHN. SINCE THAT TIME, THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS BEING PREACHED, AND EVERYONE IS FORCING HIS WAY INTO IT.

(G) GOD GAVE JESUS THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT

- (i) JOHN 3:34 FOR THE ONE WHOM GOD HAS SENT SPEAKS THE WORDS OF GOD, FOR GOD GIVES THE SPIRIT WITHOUT LIMIT.
- (ii) ACTS 10:38 HOW GOD ANOINTED JESUS OF NAZARETH WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND POWER, AND HOW HE WENT AROUND DOING GOOD AND HEALING ALL WHO WERE UNDER THE POWER OF THE DEVIL, BECAUSE GOD WAS WITH HIM.

(H) THE TWOFOLD PROGRAM OF THE GOSPEL - PREACHING AND CONFIRMING

- (i) ACTS 10:38
- (ii) JOHN 14:11 BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT I AM IN THE FATHER AND THE FATHER IS IN ME; OR AT LEAST BELIEVE ON THE EVIDENCE OF THE MIRACLES THEMSELVES.
- (iii) HEBREWS 2:3-4 HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE IGNORE SUCH A GREAT SALVATION? THIS SALVATION, WHICH WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED BY THE LORD, WAS CONFIRMED TO US BY THOSE WHO HEARD HIM. [4] GOD ALSO TESTIFIED TO IT BY SIGNS, WONDERS AND VARIOUS MIRACLES, AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.

(I) POWER COMES WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- (i) ACTS 10:38

- (II) LUKE 10:19 I HAVE GIVEN YOU AUTHORITY TO TRAMPLE ON SNAKES AND SCORPIONS AND TO OVERCOME ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY; NOTHING WILL HARM YOU.
- (III) LUKE 24:49 I AM GOING TO SEND YOU WHAT MY FATHER HAS PROMISED; BUT STAY IN THE CITY UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH."
- (IV) JOHN 14:12 I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO HAS FAITH IN ME WILL DO WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING. HE WILL DO EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER.
- (J) SATAN, NOT GOD IS THE CAUSE OF SICKNESS
 - (I) ACTS 10:38
 - (II) MATTHEW 4:23-24 JESUS WENT THROUGHOUT GALILEE, TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM, AND HEALING EVERY DISEASE AND SICKNESS AMONG THE PEOPLE. [24] NEWS ABOUT HIM SPREAD ALL OVER SYRIA, AND PEOPLE BROUGHT TO HIM ALL WHO WERE ILL WITH VARIOUS DISEASES, THOSE SUFFERING SEVERE PAIN, THE DEMON-POSSESSED, THOSE HAVING SEIZURES, AND THE PARALYZED, AND HE HEALED THEM.
 - (III) LUKE 10:19
 - (IV) JOHN 10:10 THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.
- (K) CHRIST WAS APPROVED BY GOD THROUGH SIGNS AND WONDERS
 - (I) ACTS 10:38
 - (II) MATTHEW 4:23-24 JESUS WENT THROUGHOUT GALILEE, TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM, AND HEALING EVERY DISEASE AND SICKNESS AMONG THE PEOPLE. [24] NEWS ABOUT HIM SPREAD ALL OVER SYRIA, AND PEOPLE BROUGHT TO HIM ALL WHO WERE ILL WITH VARIOUS DISEASES, THOSE SUFFERING SEVERE PAIN, THE DEMON-POSSESSED, THOSE HAVING SEIZURES, AND THE PARALYZED, AND HE HEALED THEM.
 - (III) MATTHEW 8:17 THIS WAS TO FULFILL WHAT WAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH: "HE TOOK UP OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED OUR DISEASES."
- (L) IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL
 - (I) ACTS 10:38
 - (II) MATTHEW 8:17
 - (III) MARK 16:15-20 HE SAID TO THEM, "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION. [16] WHOEVER BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED, BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE WILL BE CONDEMNED. [17] AND THESE SIGNS WILL ACCOMPANY THOSE WHO BELIEVE: IN MY NAME THEY WILL DRIVE OUT DEMONS; THEY WILL SPEAK IN NEW TONGUES; [18] THEY WILL PICK UP SNAKES WITH THEIR HANDS; AND WHEN THEY DRINK DEADLY POISON, IT WILL NOT HURT THEM AT ALL; THEY WILL PLACE THEIR HANDS ON SICK PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL GET WELL." [19] AFTER THE LORD JESUS HAD SPOKEN TO THEM, HE WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN AND HE SAT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. [20] THEN THE DISCIPLES WENT OUT AND PREACHED EVERYWHERE, AND THE LORD WORKED WITH THEM AND CONFIRMED HIS WORD BY THE SIGNS THAT ACCOMPANIED IT.
 - (IV) 3 JOHN 1:2 DEAR FRIEND, I PRAY THAT YOU MAY ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND THAT ALL MAY GO WELL WITH YOU, EVEN AS YOUR SOUL IS GETTING ALONG WELL.
- (M) IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL ALL IF CONDITIONS ARE MEN
 - (I) ACTS 10:38
 - (II) MATTHEW 13:58 AND HE DID NOT DO MANY MIRACLES THERE BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF FAITH.
 - (III) MATTHEW 17:20 HE REPLIED, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH. I TELL

YOU THE TRUTH, IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED, YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'MOVE FROM HERE TO THERE' AND IT WILL MOVE. NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU."

(IV) MATTHEW 21:22 IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."

(V) MARK 9:23 " 'IF YOU CAN?'" SAID JESUS. "EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WHO BELIEVES."

(VI) MARK 11:22-24 "HAVE FAITH IN GOD," JESUS ANSWERED. [23] "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF ANYONE SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'GO, THROW YOURSELF INTO THE SEA,' AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT HE SAYS WILL HAPPEN, IT WILL BE DONE FOR HIM. [24] THEREFORE I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT, AND IT WILL BE YOURS.

(VII) JOHN 16:23-26 IN THAT DAY YOU WILL NO LONGER ASK ME ANYTHING. I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MY FATHER WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME. [24] UNTIL NOW YOU HAVE NOT ASKED FOR ANYTHING IN MY NAME. ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE, AND YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE. [25] "THOUGH I HAVE BEEN SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY, A TIME IS COMING WHEN I WILL NO LONGER USE THIS KIND OF LANGUAGE BUT WILL TELL YOU PLAINLY ABOUT MY FATHER. [26] IN THAT DAY YOU WILL ASK IN MY NAME. I AM NOT SAYING THAT I WILL ASK THE FATHER ON YOUR BEHALF.

(N) DURING THE LIFE OF CHRIST, SPECIAL WITNESS WERE CHOSEN OF GOD FROM JOHN BAPTIST THROUGH PAUL TO RECORD A TRUE ACCOUNT OF HIS LIFE.

(I) ACTS 1:22 BEGINNING FROM JOHN'S BAPTISM TO THE TIME WHEN JESUS WAS TAKEN UP FROM US. FOR ONE OF THESE MUST BECOME A WITNESS WITH US OF HIS RESURRECTION."

(II) ACTS 3:15 YOU KILLED THE AUTHOR OF LIFE, BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. WE ARE WITNESSES OF THIS.

(III) ACTS 5:32 WE ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS, AND SO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIM."

(IV) ACTS 10:39-41 "WE ARE WITNESSES OF EVERYTHING HE DID IN THE COUNTRY OF THE JEWS AND IN JERUSALEM. THEY KILLED HIM BY HANGING HIM ON A TREE, [40] BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY AND CAUSED HIM TO BE SEEN. [41] HE WAS NOT SEEN BY ALL THE PEOPLE, BUT BY WITNESSES WHOM GOD HAD ALREADY CHOSEN--BY US WHO ATE AND DRANK WITH HIM AFTER HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

(O) THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

(P) BODILY RESURRECTION OF JESUS

(Q) THE GREAT COMMISSION TO PREACH AND CONFIRM THE GOSPEL

(I) ACTS 10:42

(II) MATTHEW 28:19-20 THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, [20] AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE."

(III) MARK 16:15-20 HE SAID TO THEM, "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION. [16] WHOEVER BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED, BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE WILL BE CONDEMNED. [17] AND THESE SIGNS WILL ACCOMPANY THOSE WHO BELIEVE: IN MY NAME THEY WILL DRIVE OUT DEMONS; THEY WILL SPEAK IN NEW TONGUES; [18] THEY WILL PICK UP SNAKES WITH THEIR HANDS; AND WHEN THEY DRINK DEADLY POISON, IT WILL NOT HURT THEM AT ALL; THEY WILL PLACE THEIR HANDS ON SICK PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL GET WELL." [19] AFTER THE LORD JESUS HAD SPOKEN TO THEM, HE WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN AND HE SAT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. [20] THEN THE DISCIPLES WENT OUT AND PREACHED EVERYWHERE, AND THE LORD WORKED WITH THEM AND CONFIRMED HIS WORD BY THE SIGNS THAT

ACCOMPANIED IT.

- (iv) LUKE 24:49-53 I AM GOING TO SEND YOU WHAT MY FATHER HAS PROMISED; BUT STAY IN THE CITY UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH." [50] WHEN HE HAD LED THEM OUT TO THE VICINITY OF BETHANY, HE LIFTED UP HIS HANDS AND BLESSED THEM. [51] WHILE HE WAS BLESSING THEM, HE LEFT THEM AND WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN. [52] THEN THEY WORSHIPED HIM AND RETURNED TO JERUSALEM WITH GREAT JOY. [53] AND THEY STAYED CONTINUALLY AT THE TEMPLE, PRAISING GOD.
- (v) ACTS 1:4-8 ON ONE OCCASION, WHILE HE WAS EATING WITH THEM, HE GAVE THEM THIS COMMAND: "DO NOT LEAVE JERUSALEM, BUT WAIT FOR THE GIFT MY FATHER PROMISED, WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD ME SPEAK ABOUT. [5] FOR JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT IN A FEW DAYS YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT." [6] SO WHEN THEY MET TOGETHER, THEY ASKED HIM, "LORD, ARE YOU AT THIS TIME GOING TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL?" [7] HE SAID TO THEM: "IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TIMES OR DATES THE FATHER HAS SET BY HIS OWN AUTHORITY. [8] BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."
- (r) CHRIST IS ORDAINED OF GOD TO BE THE JUDGE OF ALL.
 - (i) ACTS 10:42
 - (ii) JOHN 5:22 MOREOVER, THE FATHER JUDGES NO ONE, BUT HAS ENTRUSTED ALL JUDGMENT TO THE SON,
 - (iii) ACTS 17:31 FOR HE HAS SET A DAY WHEN HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD WITH JUSTICE BY THE MAN HE HAS APPOINTED. HE HAS GIVEN PROOF OF THIS TO ALL MEN BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD."
- (s) HE WILL JUDGE BOTH THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
 - (i) ACTS 10:42
 - (ii) MATTHEW 25:31-46 WHEN THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME IN HIS GLORY, AND ALL THE HOLY ANGELS WITH HIM, THEN SHALL HE SIT UPON THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY: [32] AND BEFORE HIM SHALL BE GATHERED ALL NATIONS: AND HE SHALL SEPARATE THEM ONE FROM ANOTHER, AS A SHEPHERD DIVIDETH HIS SHEEP FROM THE GOATS: [33] AND HE SHALL SET THE SHEEP ON HIS RIGHT HAND, BUT THE GOATS ON THE LEFT. [34] THEN SHALL THE KING SAY UNTO THEM ON HIS RIGHT HAND, COME, YE BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD: [35] FOR I WAS AN HUNGRED, AND YE GAVE ME MEAT: I WAS THIRSTY, AND YE GAVE ME DRINK: I WAS A STRANGER, AND YE TOOK ME IN: [36] NAKED, AND YE CLOTHED ME: I WAS SICK, AND YE VISITED ME: I WAS IN PRISON, AND YE CAME UNTO ME. [37] THEN SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS ANSWER HIM, SAYING, LORD, WHEN SAW WE THEE AN HUNGRED, AND FED THEE? OR THIRSTY, AND GAVE THEE DRINK? [38] WHEN SAW WE THEE A STRANGER, AND TOOK THEE IN? OR NAKED, AND CLOTHED THEE? [39] OR WHEN SAW WE THEE SICK, OR IN PRISON, AND CAME UNTO THEE? [40] AND THE KING SHALL ANSWER AND SAY UNTO THEM, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME. [41] THEN SHALL HE SAY ALSO UNTO THEM ON THE LEFT HAND, DEPART FROM ME, YE CURSED, INTO EVERLASTING FIRE, PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS: [42] FOR I WAS AN HUNGRED, AND YE GAVE ME NO MEAT: I WAS THIRSTY, AND YE GAVE ME NO DRINK: [43] I WAS A STRANGER, AND YE TOOK ME NOT IN: NAKED, AND YE CLOTHED ME NOT: SICK, AND IN PRISON, AND YE VISITED ME NOT. [44] THEN SHALL THEY ALSO ANSWER HIM, SAYING, LORD, WHEN SAW WE THEE AN HUNGRED, OR ATHIRST, OR A STRANGER, OR NAKED, OR SICK, OR IN PRISON, AND DID NOT MINISTER UNTO THEE? [45] THEN SHALL HE ANSWER THEM, SAYING, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, INASMUCH AS YE DID IT NOT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE, YE DID IT NOT TO ME. [46] AND THESE SHALL GO AWAY INTO EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT: BUT THE RIGHTEOUS INTO LIFE ETERNAL.

- (iii) ROMANS 14:10 BUT WHY DOST THOU JUDGE THY BROTHER? OR WHY DOST THOU SET AT NOUGHT THY BROTHER? FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.
- (iv) 1 COR. 3:11-15 FOR OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY THAN THAT IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST. [12] NOW IF ANY MAN BUILD UPON THIS FOUNDATION GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES, WOOD, HAY, STUBBLE; [13] EVERY MAN'S WORK SHALL BE MADE MANIFEST: FOR THE DAY SHALL DECLARE IT, BECAUSE IT SHALL BE REVEALED BY FIRE; AND THE FIRE SHALL TRY EVERY MAN'S WORK OF WHAT SORT IT IS. [14] IF ANY MAN'S WORK ABIDE WHICH HE HATH BUILT THEREUPON, HE SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD. [15] IF ANY MAN'S WORK SHALL BE BURNED, HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS: BUT HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED; YET SO AS BY FIRE.
- (v) 2 COR. 5:10 FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST; THAT EVERY ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN HIS BODY, ACCORDING TO THAT HE HATH DONE, WHETHER IT BE GOOD OR BAD.
- (vi) REV. 20:11-14 AND I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE, AND HIM THAT SAT ON IT, FROM WHOSE FACE THE EARTH AND THE HEAVEN FLED AWAY; AND THERE WAS FOUND NO PLACE FOR THEM. [12] AND I SAW THE DEAD, SMALL AND GREAT, STAND BEFORE GOD; AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED: AND ANOTHER BOOK WAS OPENED, WHICH IS THE BOOK OF LIFE: AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED OUT OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS, ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS. [13] AND THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN IT; AND DEATH AND HELL DELIVERED UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN THEM: AND THEY WERE JUDGED EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS. [14] AND DEATH AND HELL WERE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH.
- (T) CHRIST WAS THE MESSAGE TAUGHT BY THE PROPHETS
- (U) FAITH IN CHRIST NECESSARY FOR SALVATION
- 3. DAVID UNDER THE LAW WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.
 - A. ROMANS 4:[6] DAVID SAYS THE SAME THING WHEN HE SPEAKS OF THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE MAN TO WHOM GOD CREDITS RIGHTEOUSNESS APART FROM WORKS: [7] "BLESSED ARE THEY WHOSE TRANSGRESSIONS ARE FORGIVEN, WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED. [8] BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NEVER COUNT AGAINST HIM."
 - I. NOW PAUL WILL PROVE HOW DAVID UNDER THE LAW WAS JUSTIFIED WITH OUT THE LAW AND DEEDS.
 - (1) PSALM 32:1-2 BLESSED IS HE WHOSE TRANSGRESSIONS ARE FORGIVEN, WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED. [2] BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD DOES NOT COUNT AGAINST HIM AND IN WHOSE SPIRIT IS NO DECEIT.
 - (A) 2 SAMUEL 12:13-14 THEN DAVID SAID TO NATHAN, "I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD." NATHAN REPLIED, "THE LORD HAS TAKEN AWAY YOUR SIN. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DIE. [14] BUT BECAUSE BY DOING THIS YOU HAVE MADE THE ENEMIES OF THE LORD SHOW UTTER CONTEMPT, THE SON BORN TO YOU WILL DIE."
 - (2) PSALM 91:16 WITH LONG LIFE WILL I SATISFY HIM AND SHOW HIM MY SALVATION."
 - (3) PSALM 103:3 WHO FORGIVES ALL YOUR SINS AND HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES,
- 4. ALL MEN CAN BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH WITHOUT LAW AND WORKS
 - A. ROMANS 4:[9] IS THIS BLESSEDNESS ONLY FOR THE CIRCUMCISED, OR ALSO FOR THE UNCIRCUMCISED? WE HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 - I. ROMANS 3:21
- 5. ABRAHAM WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST 24 YEARS BEFORE CIRCUMCISION
 - A. ROMANS 4:[10] UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WAS IT CREDITED? WAS IT AFTER HE WAS CIRCUMCISED, OR BEFORE? IT WAS NOT AFTER, BUT BEFORE! [11] AND HE RECEIVED THE SIGN OF CIRCUMCISION, A SEAL OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE HAD BY FAITH WHILE HE WAS STILL UNCIRCUMCISED. 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.

I. GENESIS 12:1-3

II. GENESIS 17:1-19 WHEN ABRAM WAS NINETY-NINE YEARS OLD, THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM AND SAID, "I AM GOD ALMIGHTY; WALK BEFORE ME AND BE BLAMELESS. [2] I WILL CONFIRM MY COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND WILL GREATLY INCREASE YOUR NUMBERS." . . . [10] THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU, THE COVENANT YOU ARE TO KEEP: EVERY MALE AMONG YOU SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED. [11] YOU ARE TO UNDERGO CIRCUMCISION, AND IT WILL BE THE SIGN OF THE COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU. [12] FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME EVERY MALE AMONG YOU WHO IS EIGHT DAYS OLD MUST BE CIRCUMCISED, INCLUDING THOSE BORN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR BOUGHT WITH MONEY FROM A FOREIGNER--THOSE WHO ARE NOT YOUR OFFSPRING. [13] WHETHER BORN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR BOUGHT WITH YOUR MONEY, THEY MUST BE CIRCUMCISED. MY COVENANT IN YOUR FLESH IS TO BE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT. [14] ANY UNCIRCUMCISED MALE, WHO HAS NOT BEEN CIRCUMCISED IN THE FLESH, WILL BE CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE; HE HAS BROKEN MY COVENANT."

(1) GODS' RELATIONSHIP WITH ABRAM WAS BEFORE HE WAS CIRCUMCISED.

(2) HE WAS JUSTIFIED BY GOD BEFORE HIS CIRCUMCISION, MAKING HIM THE FATHER OF THE GENTILES BEFORE HE WAS THE FATHER OF THE JEW.

(3) NOW COMES THE PART THAT I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SOME TEACHERS TODAY. FOR THE JEW TO BE SAVED HE MUST COME UNDER THE SAME COVENANT THAT ORIGINALLY JUSTIFIED ABRAM. THE COVENANT THAT SAVES GENTILES TODAY.

6. JUSTIFICATION OF FAITH IS NOT OF LAW AND WORKS

A. ROMANS 4:[13] IT WAS NOT THROUGH LAW THAT ABRAHAM AND HIS OFFSPRING RECEIVED THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD BE HEIR OF THE WORLD, BUT THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY FAITH. [14] FOR IF THOSE WHO LIVE BY LAW ARE HEIRS, FAITH HAS NO VALUE AND THE PROMISE IS WORTHLESS, [15] BECAUSE LAW BRINGS WRATH. AND WHERE THERE IS NO LAW THERE IS NO TRANSGRESSION. [16] 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 ARE OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM. HE IS THE FATHER OF US ALL.

I. HERE WE NEED TO HEAR AND SEE THE WORD. "HEIR OF THE WORLD' WHAT IS BEING PROMISED TO MAN?

II. THIS IS NOT JUST THE "PROMISE LAND THAT IS GOING TO THE JEW"

(1) PSALM 37:11 BUT THE MEEK WILL INHERIT THE LAND AND ENJOY GREAT PEACE.

(2) MATTHEW 5:5 BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

(3) MATTHEW 25:34 "THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT, 'COME, YOU WHO ARE BLESSED BY MY FATHER; TAKE YOUR INHERITANCE, THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD.

(4) REV. 5:10 YOU HAVE MADE THEM TO BE A KINGDOM AND PRIESTS TO SERVE OUR GOD, AND THEY WILL REIGN ON THE EARTH."

(5) THE HEIR SHIP OF MAN DID NOT COME THROUGH THE COVENANT OF THE LAW, BUT THE COVENANT OF THE PLEASURE OF GOD.

(6) **THEREFORE, THE PROMISE COMES BY FAITH,**

(A) THERE IS NO PLACE [PREVISION] IN THE LAW FOR PARDON AND MERCY IF IT SHOULD BE BROKEN, IT WORKS ONLY WRATH AND PUNISHMENT.

(7) REV. 22:4-5 THEY WILL SEE HIS FACE, AND HIS NAME WILL BE ON THEIR FOREHEADS. [5] THERE WILL BE NO MORE NIGHT. THEY WILL NOT NEED THE LIGHT OF A LAMP OR THE LIGHT OF THE SUN, FOR THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE THEM LIGHT. AND THEY WILL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER.

7. JUSTIFICATION FAITH DEFINED AND ILLUSTRATED

A. ROMANS 4:[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 THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE. [18] 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.

I. THE MANY NATIONS STATEMENT COMES FROM GENUS 17.

II. TWO THINGS REVEALED HERE.

(1) RESURRECTION.

(A) GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD.

(B) JOHN 5:21 FOR JUST AS THE FATHER RAISES THE DEAD AND GIVES THEM LIFE, EVEN SO THE SON GIVES LIFE TO WHOM HE IS PLEASED TO GIVE IT.

(C) JOHN 6:63 THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE; THE FLESH COUNTS FOR NOTHING. THE WORDS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE SPIRIT AND THEY ARE LIFE.

(D) 1 COR. 15:22 FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE, SO IN CHRIST ALL WILL BE MADE ALIVE.

(E) 2 COR. 3:6 HE HAS MADE US COMPETENT AS MINISTERS OF A NEW COVENANT--NOT OF THE LETTER BUT OF THE SPIRIT; FOR THE LETTER KILLS, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE.

(F) GALATIANS 3:21 IS THE LAW, THEREFORE, OPPOSED TO THE PROMISES OF GOD? ABSOLUTELY NOT! FOR IF A LAW HAD BEEN GIVEN THAT COULD IMPART LIFE, THEN RIGHTEOUSNESS WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE COME BY THE LAW.

(G) 1 TIM. 6:13 IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, WHO GIVES LIFE TO EVERYTHING, AND OF CHRIST JESUS, WHO WHILE TESTIFYING BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE MADE THE GOOD CONFESSION, I CHARGE YOU

(H) 1 PETER 3:8 FINALLY, ALL OF YOU, LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER; BE SYMPATHETIC, LOVE AS BROTHERS, BE COMPASSIONATE AND HUMBLE.

(2) FAITH - TRUE FAITH IS CALLING SOMETHING INTO EXISTENCE THAT IS NOT. COUNTING THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE.

(A) MATTHEW 17:20 HE REPLIED, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH. I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED, YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'MOVE FROM HERE TO THERE' AND IT WILL MOVE. NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU."

(B) MATTHEW 21:22 IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."

(C) MARK 9:23 " 'IF YOU CAN'?" SAID JESUS. "EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WHO BELIEVES."

(D) MARK 11:22-24 "HAVE FAITH IN GOD," JESUS ANSWERED. [23] "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF ANYONE SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'GO, THROW YOURSELF INTO THE SEA,' AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT HE SAYS WILL HAPPEN, IT WILL BE DONE FOR HIM. [24] THEREFORE I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT, AND IT WILL BE YOURS.

(E) HEBREWS 11:1 NOW FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.

III. AGAINST ALL HOPE, ABRAHAM IN HOPE BELIEVED AND SO BECAME

(1) HEBREWS 11:6 AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD, BECAUSE ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO EARNESTLY SEEK HIM.

(2) JAMES 1:5-8 IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, HE SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM. [6] BUT WHEN HE ASKS, HE MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE HE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND. [7] THAT MAN SHOULD NOT THINK HE WILL RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THE LORD; [8] HE IS A DOUBLE-MINDED MAN, UNSTABLE IN ALL HE DOES.

8. JUSTIFICATION TO ALL MEN WHO HAVE LIKE FAITH IN CHRIST

A. ROMANS 4:[22] 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.

I. WHO ARE WE TO BELIEVE IN?

(1) TRICK QUESTION - THE TRICK THAT MEN DO NOT SEE TODAY.

II. THE FATHER HERE IS THE HIGH PRIEST OF ALL MEN.

III. HE IS OFFERING UP "THE LAMB OF GOD"

IV. THE QUESTION, WHO WILL RESPOND TO THIS OFFERING?