

**Promise, Faith, Circumcision, and Law**

*Rom 4.7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin." 9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised. 13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, 15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.*

\* In vs 9-16, Paul takes up the thorny issues of ..., he does so by delving into ..., and he proves a single overarching point: When it comes to God's plan of salvation, promise and faith are ..., and circumcision and the law are ...

\* *Gen 12.1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

– Abram is how old?

– His homeland was?

– Gal 3.8 says the promise, "In you all families of the earth shall be blessed," was God preaching the ... to Abram.

– We know Abram believed the promises, because ...

\* *Gen 15.5* "[The word of the Lord] brought [Abram] outside and

said, "Look now toward heaven and count the stars if you are to number them." And He said, "So shall your seed be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness ... 17 And ... behold ... a smoking oven and a burning torch ... passed between those pieces [of sacrificial animals]. 18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram ...

– In vs 5, the Heb. word for "count" and "number" means ...

– The word "seed" in vs 5 is ..., referring to ... (Gal 3.16).

– In Rom 10.18, Paul refers to the stars as ...

*Rom 10.13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 ... As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, ... 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world" (quoting Psalm 19.4).*

*Psalm 19.1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6 Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end ...*

– Most theologians assume Psalm 19.1-6 is talking about ..., but Paul quotes in in Rom 10 as though it is talking about ...

– What is unique about the covenant God makes in Gen 15? Such a covenant becomes valid only upon ... ( Heb 9.15-17).

– What is God saying by passing between the animal parts?

– All this occurs while Abram is ...

\* Gen 17.1 *"I am Almighty God; walk before me and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly ... 4 My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations."*

– How old is Abram? Ishmael?

– What obligation is God calling Abraham to undertake?

– The covenant of circumcision in Gen 17 represents ...

– The covenant of circumcision grows naturally out of ...

– Circumcision points to what 3 things?

\* If we zoom ahead several centuries to the exodus when God gives the law ...

– What is God signifying in the Passover?

– What is God calling Israelites to do?

– What is the "mixed multitude"? What about Israelites who don't believe, or Egyptians who do?

– How do you know who believes and who doesn't?

– Passover emphasizes the same things as ...

– The law comes after ... and is built on the foundation of ...

– The law emphasizes the same thing as ...

– Moses sums up the law in Deut 10.12-13:

Deut 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? ... Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer."

– The law was a fuller explanation of what it means to ...

– Jesus teaches that the law was all about ... (Mat 22.36-40).

– So with the giving of the law, circumcision meant that you were defined by ..., that you were committed to ..., and that you were undertaking the obligation of ...

\* In Rom 4.11-12, what is the common denominator, and what is the bottom line?

\* As NT believers, if you remember that promise and faith are ..., and covenant sign and law are ..., covenant sign and law will point you to what three things?