

The Son of Abraham Is Hope for Every Nation

When the fullness of time had come God sent forth His son (Gal. 4:4).

1 Corinthians 10:11

“She and I began devouring book after book, faster and faster, thrilled by each new discovery of seemingly impossible truths that were actually *true*.... We realized that the Old Testament begged for the climax of the New Testament.” (*Christianity Today*, December, 2019, “Crossing the Road to Christ” by Dikkon Eberhart)

Matthew 1:1, 17-18; Luke 1:55, 73

What should all people learn from the example of Abraham?

1. The one true God can be known in a personal relationship.

Genesis 17:7-8 *God said to Abraham ... [I promise] to be God to you and to your offspring after you ... I will be their God*

James 2:23 *he was called a friend of God*

2. God calls people out of idolatry to Himself.

Joshua 24:2-3 *“Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River...”*

3. God can save.

Luke 1:73-78 *[God is keeping] the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days... to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God...*

Hebrews 2:14-16 *[Jesus became a man] that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.*

4. People must receive God's salvation by faith in His promises, not their own goodness, religion, or rule-keeping.

Romans 3:28, 4:3-8 *For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law... For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."*

Galatians 3:18 *For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.*

5. Because God's salvation is received by faith, it is available to anyone, not just the physical descendants of Abraham.

Romans 4:16-17 *That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all [Abraham's] offspring ... to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"*

Romans 4:22-25 *[Abraham's] faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

Galatians 3:6-8 *Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of*

Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the good news [gospel] beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

Galatians 3:9 Consequently those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.

6. True faith always results in fruit (good works)

Gen. 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless."

James 2:21-23 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar [Gen. 22:16-18]? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

John 8:39 They [said to Jesus], "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did."

7. True faith endures through trials and testing

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac

Hebrews 6:15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise

Romans 4:20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

8. God gives resurrection and a forever home far greater than anything on earth.

Romans 4:16-17 (CSB) *[Abraham] is the father of us all [who believe]... He is our father in God's sight, in whom Abraham believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist.*

Hebrews 11:9-10 *By faith [Abraham] stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Why should all people rejoice that Jesus was born as a Son of Abraham?

Faith is how we _____ the blessings. But Jesus – the _____ – is how God _____ the blessings.

Gal. 3:13-14 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus.*

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son (Gen. 22:13).

the LORD will provide (Gen. 22:14)

Gal. 3:16, 29 *Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.... And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*