

Evening Worship / April 9, 2023

“Father Abraham – An Early Believer in the Risen Christ!”

Romans 4:20-25

²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore “*it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” ²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:20–25 (NKJV)

I. *Abraham’s unwavering faith –*

²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, Romans 4:20 (NKJV)

1. *First note this passage is talking about Abraham – ... but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all* ¹⁷ (as it is written, “*I have made you a father of many nations*”)... Romans 4:16 B - :17 A (NKJV)

He was and is the father of some (not only Jews) through natural generation, he is the father of faith to all true believers through spiritual generation.

2. “**He did not waver**”, is an interesting statement, especially since it stated about his faith in a quotation “*it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” :22 – from **Genesis 15:6**

⁶ **And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:6 (NKJV)**

*This statement about Abraham’s unwavering faith is made based on his trust in God’s promises given in **Genesis 15**, yet:*

A. *In **Genesis 16** there is the Hagar incident, which seems to indicate Abram & Sarai doubted God could give them children!*

B. *In **Genesis 20** Abraham instructs Sarah to lie about their husband-wife relationship, pretending to be his sister. Now, you might say this is lack of faith in men, not God, but God had “control” over those men, as Abraham would have, should have known, because in **Genesis 12**, he had Sarah lie there as well claiming to be “sister” not wife!*

*These things make me think that Abram / Abraham’s faith did “waver” at times, but Paul also says -... **but was strengthened in faith**,... **Romans 4:20 B***

3. *Strengthened in faith, giving glory to God in these words it seems to me Paul / God / the Holy Spirit is taking into account the entirety of Abraham’s life and counting the amazing faith, which he had when he offered up Isaac, to be somehow there earlier, but maybe in a weaker, less mature stage –*

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “*In Isaac your seed shall be called,*” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. Hebrews 11:17–19 (NKJV)

The fact that Abraham’s strongest faith was credited to him, before it was strong, and weakness and sin is forgotten after it is strong, is evidence of God’s great grace.

¹³ As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:13–14 (NKJV)

II. *Abraham’s faith displayed in offering up Isaac “concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead,...” Hebrews 11:19 A is obviously where Abraham’s faith is connected to the resurrection –*

1. *This where Paul, God, the Holy Spirit connect our faith in Jesus’ resurrection to Abraham’s –*

²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

A. *Paul is telling us here, that at the first moment God made promises to Abram, Genesis 12, and when He counted Abram’s faith for “righteousness” – Genesis 15:6, even from the start, and even BEFORE, we learn from this:*

B. *God had first century believers in mind!*

C. *God had 21st century believers in mind!*

D. *God had all century believers in mind!*

2. *I believe Abraham’s resurrection beliefs were part of his rejoicing in Jesus Christ –*

⁵¹ **Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”**

⁵² Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘**if anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.**’” ⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “**If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.**” ⁵⁵ **Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.** ⁵⁶ **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.**” ⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**” John 8:51–58 (NKJV)

3. *I believe part of Abraham’s seeing Jesus’ day, John 8:56, was when Isaac was spared and God provided His own lamb –*

⁸ And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.”

¹² And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me.”

¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*—¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” Genesis 22:8–18 (NKJV)

There are definitely other times Christ could have and most likely did meet with Abraham, but when he says, catching the lamb The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

I think he Abraham, at this mature-faith stage of life, given a great test and PASSING it, saw and rejoiced in Jesus’ day ---- ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” John 8:56 (NKJV)

I am not certain of it but I think Abraham foresaw the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as we look back at it, He looked forward to it!

4. *He trusted in God’s promises being fulfilled in His future SON –*

¹⁸ But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:18–20 (NKJV)

III. *Christ died and was raised for us –*

⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:25 (NKJV)

1. *The Promises of Blessing to Abram come to us through Jesus Christ –*

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.” Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

A. *By His death our offenses are eliminated –*

²⁵ “I, even I, *am* He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. Isaiah 43:25 (NKJV)

B. *By His resurrection our justification is confirmed –*

⁵ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1–2 (NKJV)

Father Abraham (song)

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Chin up

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Chin up, turn around

Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Chin up, turn around, sit down

Arnold A. Brevick