

**Father Abraham**  
**Lesson #14**  
**Romans 4:1-25**

Abraham is the forefather of the Jews and founder of the nation of Israel. He is a key person to the identity of Jews in every generation. Before we can fully understand the significance of Abraham in Paul's letter to the Romans, we must first take a look at the bigger picture of what God was doing in human history.

**Background**

1. God's desire when creating human beings "*in His image*" was to have a relationship. (Genesis 1:27; 3:8, 9) That relationship was broken when Adam and Eve, the first humans, disobeyed God. (Genesis 3) Many generations after the story of Adam and Eve, what was God's view of the people that he had created "*in His image*?" (Genesis 6:5-7)
  
2. What was written about the man named Noah? (Genesis 6:8)
  
3. Through a flood, God wiped out all the living beings that He had created with the exception of those who were protected on an ark; Noah, his family and the animals. (Genesis 7-9) When the flood waters receded, those people and animals who survived were given the command to repopulate the earth. They obeyed and Genesis 10 gives a list of 70 nations that resulted from Noah's family. The genealogy of Shem, one of Noah's sons, lists a descendant named Terah who became father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. What information was given about Abram? (Genesis 11:29, 30)
  
4. When Abram was 75, what did the Lord ask him to do? (Genesis 12:1)
  
5. If Abram obeyed, what was God's promise to him? (Genesis 12:2, 3)
  
  
- Did Abram obey God? (Genesis 12:4a)

6. God blessed Abram in many ways, but years after the promise, what was still left undone that Abram questioned? (Genesis 15:2, 3)
7. How did God answer Abram's concern? (Genesis 15:4, 5)
8. By this time Abram was 99 years old and Sarai 89. What amazing statement is made about Abram in Genesis 15:6?
9. Equally important to understanding is always the context; so based on the context, what was Paul addressing in this section of his letter to the Romans? (Romans 3:28)

**Righteousness and Works - Romans 4:1-8**

10. The commonly held belief of the Jews was that Abram (later Abraham) was justified by his works. How did Paul counter that thinking?
  - Romans 4:2
  - Romans 4:3
11. What was Paul's point "*when a man works?*" (Romans 4:4)
12. What was his "*however?*" (Romans 4:5)
13. Another important forefather of the nation of Israel was King David. What did Paul point out about David? (Romans 4:6)
14. What did King David understand about righteousness apart from works? (Romans 4:7, 8)

**Righteousness and Circumcision – Romans 4:9-12**

15. In addition to earning righteousness through works, Jews also believed that to be righteous one must also be circumcised. After repeating his theme “*Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness*,” Paul asked a question about the timing of this declaration. What did Paul emphasize? (Romans 4:10)

16. What did he say about circumcision with regard to righteousness? (Romans 4:11a)

17. That fact is significant! What else did Paul say about Abraham? (Romans 4:11b)

18. What does that mean for the Jews? (Romans 4:12)

**Righteousness and the Law – Romans 4:13-25**

19. What was Paul’s answer to obtaining righteousness through observance of the Law? (Romans 4:13)

20. How is faith affected if obedience to the Law is required for righteousness? (Romans 4:14)

21. What is significant about the Law? (Romans 4:15)

22. How did Paul summarize his thoughts beginning with “*therefore?*” (Romans 4:16)

23. What part of God’s promise to Abram did Paul emphasize here? (Romans 4:17a)

- What did Paul emphasize about God? (Romans 4:17b)

24. To clarify what he meant, Paul said it was against all hope that in hope Abraham believed. Why was faith so significant in Abraham's hope and belief?
- Romans 4:18
  
  - Romans 4:19
25. Even though human reason said this is impossible, Abraham's faith in God's promise "*did not waver through unbelief.*" What did this do for Abraham's faith? (Romans 4:20, 21)
26. **Reflect:** Everything Abraham had known and experienced in his life was being challenged. Abraham clearly knew what God had promised, yet this promise brought Abraham to a place of crisis – decision. What Abraham did next would be the truth of what he believed about - - God. Could God really do what He had promised even though it was humanly impossible? Abraham chose to say "I believe." When God speaks to you through His Spirit and His Word, the Bible, do you believe His promises?
27. What did Paul say about faith in God like Abraham's? (Romans 4:22, 23a)
28. For us today, where must that faith rest? (Romans 4:24)
29. Returning to his statement of the gospel (Romans 1:16, 17), what did Paul emphasize about Jesus' death and resurrection? (Romans 4:25)