

Romans 4 New King James Version (NKJV)

Abraham Justified by Faith

4 What then shall we say that Abraham our (fore)father has found according to the flesh?^{1a} ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, **but not before God**. ³For what does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”**(Gen. 15:6) ⁴Now to him who works, the **wages** are not counted as grace but as **debt**.

David Celebrates the Same Truth

⁵But to him who **does not work but believes on Him** who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is accounted for righteousness, ⁶just as **David** also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,

And whose sins are **covered**;

⁸Blessed is the man to whom the **LORD** shall not impute sin.” (Psalm 32:1, 1)

Abraham Justified Before Circumcision

⁹Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? **Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised**. ¹¹And 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, ¹²and 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.

The Promise Granted Through Faith

¹³For 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. ¹⁴For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, ¹⁵because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore 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 ¹⁷(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”^{1a}) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”^{1a} ¹⁹And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²²And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”^{1a}

²³Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 4:1 Or **Abraham our (fore)father according to the flesh has found?**
- b. Romans 4:3 → **Genesis 15:6**
- c. Romans 4:8 → Psalm 32:1, 2
- d. Romans 4:17 → Genesis 17:5
- e. Romans 4:18 → Genesis 15:5
- f. Romans 4:22 → Genesis 15:6