

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

Why is it so important?

Romans 4.12

Galatians 3.7,9



ABRAHAM: BACKGROUND

- Introduced as the son of Terah in Genesis 11.
 - Terah was idolatrous — Joshua 24.2
- Abraham called to leave his family and go where God would reveal — Genesis 12.1-3
- Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, would receive the Canaan — Genesis 15.13ff
- Through his son, Isaac, Abraham would eventually be a forefather of Jesus — Genesis 22.18; Matthew 1.1f

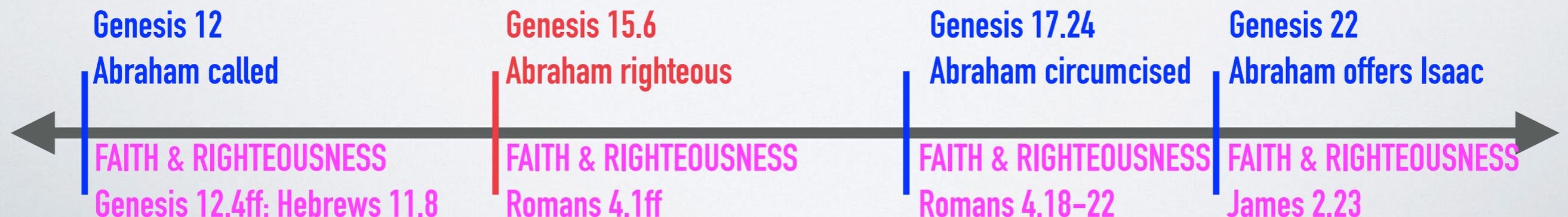
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH:

- His faith was in the power of God (Heb. 11.17ff).
 - Abraham's trust in God led him to offer Isaac.
 - This event is after Genesis 17.24 (Genesis 22).
- His faith was in the person of God (Heb. 11.8ff).
 - Abraham followed where God directed.
 - This event is before Genesis 17.24 (Genesis 12).

Note: in both instances, *faith* is more than just mental acceptance.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH:

- His faith was in the pardon of God (Gen. 15.6).
 - By Genesis 15, Abraham had clearly sinned:
 - He lied and doubted God — Genesis 12.11-13
 - Abraham was declared righteous (forgiven) by God on account of his faith (Genesis 15.6; Romans 4.3).
 - His faith was while uncircumcised.
 - His justification was by faith, not works [sinless perfection] (Rom. 4.4-5).
 - His faith embraced obedience (Gen. 12.4,7,8; 17.24; 22.12).



ABRAHAM AND ME:

“...so that he might be the father of all who believe **without being circumcised**, that righteousness might be credited to them, and the father of circumcision **to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.**”

(Romans 4:11-12)

“The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘**ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.**’”

(Galatians 3:8)

“Therefore, be sure that it is **those who are of faith** who are sons of Abraham.”

(Galatians 3:7)

“So then those who are of faith are **blessed with Abraham, the believer.**”

(Galatians 3:7)

- 1) God justifies man by faith.
- 2) The offer of justification by faith is open to all.
- 3) My faith must be the faith of Abraham — a faith that obeys.