



Who's Afraid Of The Old Testament?

How Were Old Testament People Saved?

Romans 4:1-8

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 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.”

What then shall we say was gained by **Abraham**, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

2 Chronicles 20:7

Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of **Abraham your friend**?

Isaiah 41:8

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of **Abraham, my friend**

Nehemiah 9:7-8

You are the LORD, the **God who chose Abram** and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. **You found his heart faithful before you**, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring

A Popular Understanding Of Abraham In Paul's Lifetime

“Abraham was perfect in all his deeds with the Lord, and well-pleasing in righteousness all the days of his life”
(Jubilees 23:10)

“Abraham did not sin against Thee.”
(Prayer of Manasseh chapter 8)

“No one has been found like him in glory”
(Sirach 44:19)

The bottom line: here is a man who many think was righteous by his actions.

Genesis 15:2-3

But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

Genesis 15:4-5

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Genesis 15:6

And he **believed** the Lord, and he **counted** to him as righteousness

Believed= Faith/Trust in God/Christ

Counted to him= To impute or credit someone's account

Romans 4:3

For what does the Scripture say?

Romans 4:4

"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

Abraham was a good man, even a great man. He is a model of Old Testament piety. Yet Abraham was not saved by his works, not *could* he be saved by them. If this man could not be saved by good works, it is certain that you and I, who are far less pious and godly than he was, cannot be saved by them.

– James Montgomery Boice



Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.

– Wayne Grudem



Romans 4:4

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

Romans 4:5

And to the one who does not work
but trusts him who justifies the
ungodly, his faith is counted as
righteousness

*“puts confidence not in self-
righteousness, but in God’s
righteousness”*

The two methods of justification cannot be united. They are as inconsistent as wages and a free gift. If of works, it is not of grace. And if of grace, it is not of works.

– Charles Hodge



Romans 4:6

just as *David* also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works

1 Kings 15:1-3

Abijah became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, **as the heart of David his forefather had been**. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith

2 Kings 14:1-3

Amaziah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not **as his father David had done**.

Romans 4:6

just as David also speaks of the
blessing of the one to whom **God**
counts righteousness apart from
works

Romans 4:8

blessed is the man against whom
the Lord will not count his sin

1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but

you, in the things that **have now been announced** to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, **things into which angels long to look.**

God's Progressive Revelation / Salvation Plan



Faith looked forward

Faith looks backward

Death of Christ

Direct knowledge of Christ not required

Direct knowledge of Christ required