

Those Who Do the Works of Abraham Will Bring About the Promise

Mt 21:33-45 — As to the nature of the Jews, they are manipulative and controlling, holding their children under the Jewish religion (Rev 2:9; 3:9) and treating them as *dead* if they become Christians or marry non-Jews (marry outside their religion). Mt 27:25 is the fountainhead for this persuasion and the hostility of their nature (1 Ths 2:14-16), now and for the last 2,000 years. The rejection of Messiah (Isa 53:1-11) led to the Kingdom being taken away from them (Mt 21:33-45) and given to another nation (Isa 49:6) as Paul understood he was building (Acts 13:47). That nation also failed to produce the fruit of the Kingdom in its day, but it provided the Scriptures, which affords the Stone Kingdom to profit from their failures, according to the principle in 1 Cor 10:11 (in the context of verses 1-12).

Salvation by Faith in the Old Covenant

The only way a person could be saved in or under the Old Covenant was by faith, which was proven by their works (Gal 3:10,13). The works of the Law justify no man, only faith — but not a “faith” without works (Jms 2:26). The seed of Abraham was always recognized by God as those who were doing the works of Abraham (Jn 8:39) by being those who by their faith bring about what was promised to Abraham’s seed (Gen 15:18; 18:19). Circumcision was by faith (Gen 17:8-14; Rom 2:28-29) — the faith proven by one’s works, which is called *faithfulness* in the Old Covenant. That is, faithfulness to do what all who were chosen were chosen to do (Jn 8:39; Jms 2:14-26), just as Paul proclaimed in the New Covenant in Acts 26:20 to both Jews and Gentiles, that “... they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.”

The word translated as *faith* appears in the Old Testament twice: Dt 32:20 and Hab 2:4. It is *emunah* (#529), which means faithfulness, trustworthiness. Paul speaks of

Abraham's faith in Rom 4:5,9,11,12-14,16,19-20. The word *faith* in Rom 9:30 is #4102 in the Greek, which comes from #3982. It is the fidelity which comes from the persuasion which comes from God — the same God as Abraham's. It means being faithful and trustworthy as the called, chosen, and faithful in Rev 17:14. This will bring about what Zechariah spoke in Lk 1:71-74 — an enemy-free land. *Faithful* is not what people in Christianity believe faith is, as James refutes in Jms 2:14. Martin Luther did not like this requirement of faithfulness, which is why he called James an epistle of straw. Rev 2:10 is true faith(fullness).

No one can be saved by works or by his keeping of the Law. He is saved, rather, by the grace and the faith of the Father, which a person in the Old or New Covenant receives in order to do the works prepared for him to do (Eph 2:8-10), just as Abraham did (Gen 18:19; Rom 4:9-12). Rom 4:3-12 — Works come after true faith, proving that it is true. They are the fruit (Jn 15:8; Jms 2:20). As Jms 2:25 says, "Rahab was persuaded by God to receive the spies" (or messengers). Her persuasion was made valid by what she did, not what she believed (Jms 2:26). She had to *obey*. Faith is the source of obedience (Acts 5:32).

Jms 2:23 — *Believed* is #4100, meaning *faithful to the persuasion* (#4102, #3982, #4103). He gave credit to what he believed by what he did as a result of his belief. Or to put it another way, he was faithful to the belief he had in God's Word to him (Jms 2:21).

The word *believed* in Gen 15:6 is #539, which meant to be faithful in trust and assurance of heart, in order to be steadfast, sure, reliable (Gen 18:19; Jn 7:17). The faithful and true are sure to do the works of Abraham (Jn 8:39). In Jn 8:37, Abraham's *seed* is #4690 (*sperma*), meaning his natural offspring. In Jn 8:39, Abraham's *children* is #5043 (*teknon*), meaning his spiritual offspring. In Gal 3:29, Abraham's true seed (#4690) are the descendants who will inherit the promise of eternal life. Rom 9:29 is the seed (#4690) kept over from planting, "the grain or kernel which contains within itself the germ of the future plants" (from *Strong's Concordance*).

Jms 2:14,22,25 — We are to do the works of Abraham. Faithfulness is proven by what one *does*, not merely by what one *says*. A man's genuineness is not proven by words, but by works (what he *does*), as *love* is in 1 Jn 3:16-21, or *service* is in Jn 12:26, which results in being honored (1 Cor 11:19) now in the present and henceforth. *Now* is when and where the Twelve Tribes are “earnestly serving God night and day” (Acts 26:7); *that* is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2).

Acts 26:6-8 — “And *now* I stand here on trial for hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which *our* twelve tribes hope to attain...” *Now*, since Mt 21:43; Acts 13:47; Isa 49:6,8; Gen 12:3... “to which *now* our twelve tribes hope to attain as they earnestly serve night and day to raise to life the dead old Israel” (Rom 11:15; Mt 19:28; Gen 15:18; 18:19; 17:8). But the Jews oppose this good news.

Indeed He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isa 49:6)

Thus says the Sovereign: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages...” (Isa 49:8).

In Isa 49, verses 6-7 will cause verse 8, that is, for the natural seed of Abraham, who repent at the end of this age (Zec 12:10), to inherit the land. And in Acts 26, verses 6-7 also cause verse 8, the “resurrection” of natural Israel (Rom 11:15).

At the appointed time, it is written, you [Elijah] are destined to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. (Sir 48:10)

Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne.” (Zec 6:12-13)

Elijah comes before Messiah (Mk 9:12), both in the first century and in the last century, to prepare the way, to build the twelve-tribed nation, which is His temple. The

appointed time is *now*. Acts 26:6-7 — “And *now*... because of the hope in the promise made by God to our fathers... to which *now* our twelve tribes hope to attain *for them* as they fervently serve God night and day...” so that God will be able to raise the dead Israel to life (Rom 11:12-15). *Now*, no longer in the apostate religion of Judaism, but through the *New Israel* (1 Pet 2:9-10; Isa 49:6,8; Gen 15:18; 18:19; 17:8).