Doctrinal Application of the life of Abraham

This is to observe the way the New Testament uses the Old Testament to illustrate doctrinal truths. Romans 4 compare Genesis 15

I. One way the New Testament uses Abraham’s life is as **Legal Precedent**. This is also known as Case Law.

1. If he was justified by faith, then:

a. So may everybody (case law)

b. So must everybody (legal precedent)

Note: this underscores the seriousness of Old Testament literature. Accuracy necessary. Inspiration and Inerrancy mandatory.

II. Another way the New Testament uses Abraham’s life is as **Simple Analogy.** Abraham was justified by faith. But what is meant “by faith”? Romans 4:16&cf.

Abraham believed God, Who could bring life out of death. Paul illustrates from the life of Abraham a vital element of “saving faith”.

Justification by faith

What God Does How He does it (condition)

How God saves is illustrated in Abraham’s life. Why is Abraham used by the Holy Spirit as *the* example of saving faith? Why not Moses? Joseph? Noah?

1. **Fact** Because the *fact* of his salvation is clearly stated in Scripture. Therefore we can look and see that Abraham *was* justified (declared righteous). See Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6

2. **How** The terms of Abrahams’s justification are clear. He believed God – simple, clear, singular. Believe = Hebrew – “aman”. “To lean on”; “dependency”. *Only* condition found in the New Testament or the Old Testament for Abraham.

3. **When** We know *when* he was justified

a. Many people think maybe there’s a rite or ritual I can go through once or often that can justify me before a holy and righteous God.

Abraham 86 years old 99 Years Old 400+ years later

Justified Circumcision Law of Moses Given

Romans 4

4:1-8 Abraham justified by faith not works

4:9-12 Abraham justified by faith not ritual or rite

4:13-16 Abraham justified by faith not law keeping

What a splendid example the Holy Spirit gives us in the life of Abraham! Galatians 3 and Romans 4 are built upon Genesis 15:6.