

c. Abraham was justified by believing the revealed Word of God - verse 8

- (1) In this verse "the Scripture" is personified. There is here no distinction between God speaking directly or through an angel to Abraham, and God speaking in the written Word. In Abraham's day, none of the Scriptures had been written down. Moses, the first Biblical author, lived over four hundred years after Abraham. Thus, we are to understand "scripture" in this verse to be a personification of God Himself. It is necessary to realize that when we read or hear the Scripture it is as if God Himself were speaking to us face to face.
- (2) It is impossible for us to know all that Abraham was told concerning the coming of Christ. It is very clear, however, that he had an understanding of the Gospel of Grace. John 8:56 - "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."
 - (a) Genesis 22 records the incident of Abraham's offering up Isaac before the Lord. In verse 5 of Genesis 22 the original reads: "I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and we will come again to you." This verse indicates that Abraham believed that God would provide a substitute for his son. This is further borne out by verse 8: "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering ..."

This experience doubtless impressed the aged patriarch that one day God would bear man's penalty for sin. This is what Christ meant when He said "Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it and was glad."

In verse 18 of Genesis 22 the promise to Abraham is restated: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." "Blessed" here can mean nothing less than "justified." That is, through Abraham would come the promised seed who would call men from every tribe and nation to salvation.

Conclusion: Verse 9

The doctrine of justification by faith did not have its origin with Paul. It is older than the Jewish nation. In fact, no man has ever been justified according to any other principle but faith.

Those who have truly "believed God," that is, have received the Lamb that God has provided for their redemption, have been credited with righteousness, as was Abraham.

"For he hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Corinthians 5:21