

# **Romans 4:1-12**

**-The theme of the letter is the righteousness of God and the thesis is that the righteousness of God is alone able to save; that man cannot save himself nor contribute anything at all to the attainment of the righteousness of God.**

***-Same Thing, Not Even  
Different***

**-Romans 1:16-17 (ESV) 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."**

**-Abraham/Abram born 352 yrs  
after the worldwide flood of  
Noah's day roughly about 4000  
yrs ago; about 2000 yrs before  
Christ.**

**-Shem, the son of Noah, who was on the ark through the flood and lived to be 600 yrs old, died only 25 yrs before Abraham died as he only lived to be 175 yrs old.**

**-Genesis 15:7 (ESV) And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”**

**-Genesis 15:1-6 (ESV) 1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2 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?” 3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” 4 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.” 5 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.” 6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**

**-Genesis 15:8-18 (ESV) 8 But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land...”**

**-NOTHING about what God is  
promising to Abram is  
contingent upon any work of  
Abram/Abraham!**

**-God was signifying His own substitutionary sacrifice in order to satisfy the demands of this blood covenant when, not if, it is broken.**

**-What does the Bible say?**

**-“What does the Scripture  
say?”**

**-“Protestants understand this passage as signifying that God legally credits the sinner with a righteousness which he does not intrinsically possess. God makes, as it were, an entry of infinite righteousness into one column of the sinner's ledger, which cancels out all the red ink in the other. Thus God can consider the sinner as righteous, and legally declare the sinner to be righteous, even though he is not, and acquit him of guilt, even though he is guilty. Catholics for centuries have justly called this concept a legal fiction. Indeed, basic Christian sense prohibits us from positing that God could declare something to be so (i.e. that the sinner is righteous), yet it not inwardly, ontologically be so.” — Ben Douglass**

**-2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.**

**The old has passed away;  
behold, the new has come.**

**-“The [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com) online Greek lexicon states it very well, I think: "This word deals with reality. If I "logizomai" or reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself." Obviously, these verses give no support whatsoever to the Protestant interpretation of Romans 4, since in their theology God knows that the sinner is not righteous but imputes righteousness to him anyway. If Protestants were to pattern their interpretation of logizomai in Romans 4 after the manner in which it is used in these verses, they would have God mistaking the sinner for a righteous man, regarding him as righteous because He did not know what he actually was.” — Ben Douglass**

**-Romans 3:23-26 (ESV) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**