



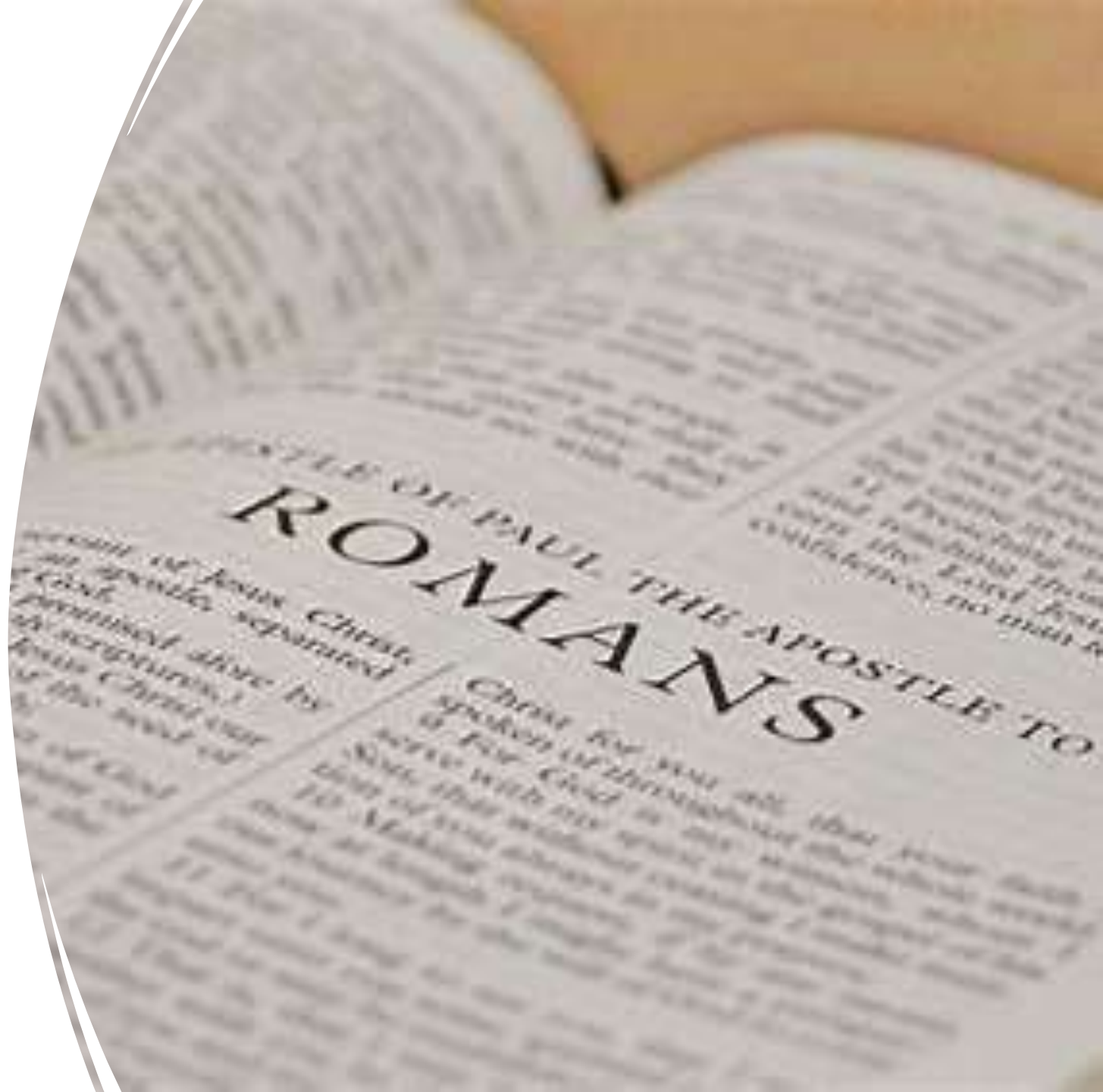
The  
SALVATION  
Series

Part 6 - Abraham

# Introduction...

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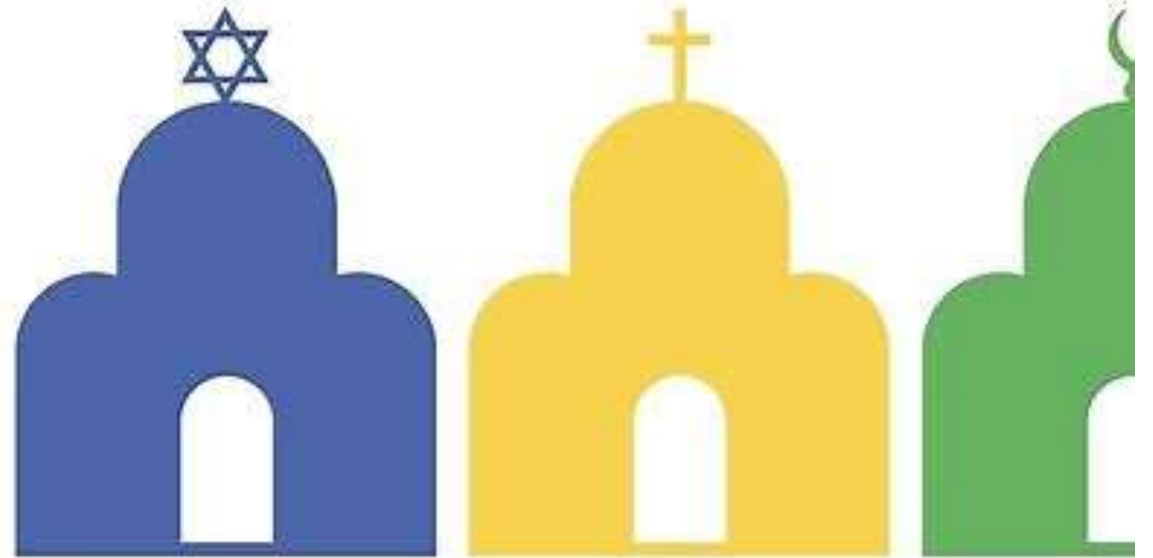
- Our session today will build on the flow and narrative from chapter three.
- In the first chapter, we find that all the non-Jews are serious sinners.
- In chapter two, we discover that the Jews who should know better are even worse sinners.
- In chapter three, the conclusion is ALL HAVE SINNED!
- That the only remedy is through FAITH in Christ



# Introduction...

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- The three major religions of Islam, Judaism and Christianity all claim Abraham as a central figure of their faith.
- What we don't hear much of is that the idol worshipping sinner can also lay claim to Abraham!
- Paul presents this major point to say that even though ALL have sinned, ALL can be redeemed by Faith.
- That Abraham represents ALL these Gentiles too!





What!!?

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- To understand how revolutionary Paul's teaching here is; it would be like saying:
- A genetic study discovered that Martin Luther King Jnr was Nigerian!
- Therefore, all Nigerians can lay claim to him!
- OR that Abraham Lincoln was Indian, therefore he can represent not just White Americans but all the original Native Americans too!

we decided to

work with love.

is too great

to bear.

Martin Luther King, Jr.





## Abraham...

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- Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God?
- <sup>2</sup> If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.
- <sup>3</sup> For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith" Romans 4:1-3.



# JUSTIFIED!

- Paul starts with the obvious fact that he was not made righteous by his good behaviour.
- Even though Abraham is held in very high regard in terms of his lifestyle; yet he was not blessed with Righteousness because of that.
- This shows that the Old Testament presents how God can endow someone with Justification through FAITH.





# David...

- <sup>4</sup> *When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned.*
- <sup>5</sup> *But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.*
- <sup>6</sup> **David** *also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:*
- <sup>7</sup> *"Oh, what joy for those  
whose disobedience is forgiven,  
whose sins are put out of sight.*
- <sup>8</sup> *Yes, what joy for those  
whose record the LORD has*



# WOW!

- Abraham and David are like Born Again Believers in the Old Testament!
- They show that this idea of the forgiveness of sins was around in God's Heart for a long time!
- The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed
- The NT is the OT Revealed!





# Abraham...

- *Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles?*
- *Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith.*
- *<sup>10</sup> But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised?*
- *Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!*  
*Roms 4:9-10*



# Abraham...

- <sup>11</sup> Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—
- even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised.
- They are counted as righteous because of their faith. <sup>12</sup> And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised,
- but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised. Romans 4:11-12







# Abraham...

- Paul's key argument is that Abraham was justified before he did any works (circumcision or following the Law).
- This proves that salvation has always been by faith alone—not by keeping the Law or performing religious rituals.
- This addresses the concept of trying to please God by good behaviour and obeying rules.
- God's emphasis is always on the condition of the Heart and NOT the action





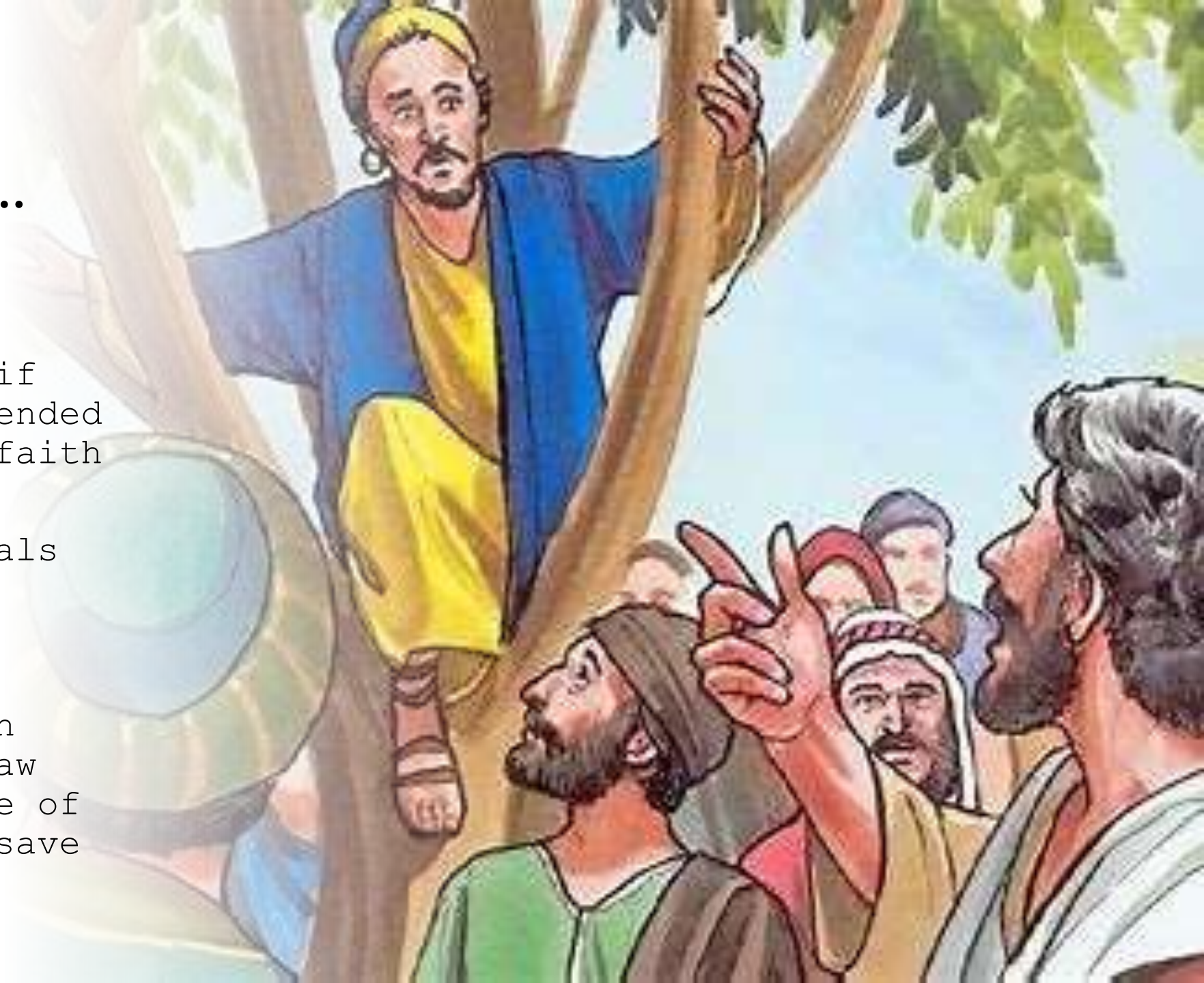
# Magdalene...

- For the Jews, circumcision was a major sign of their covenant with God.
- However, Paul clarifies that Abraham was righteous before circumcision.
- This shows that religious symbols (like circumcision, baptism, or church attendance) do not save—only faith does.
- This is one of the keys to why God favoured prostitutes like Rahab, Mary Magdalene etc
- It gives HOPE to sinners that Jesus loves them and accepts them through their faith in Him and nothing in their past lives can keep His salvation from them



# Zacchaeus...

- Paul argues that if righteousness depended on the Law, then faith would be useless.
- The Law only reveals sin but does not justify anyone.
- This aligns with Romans 3:20, which states that the Law makes people aware of sin but does not save them.






# Takeaways...

- Justification has always been by faith, not by works (Abraham is the prime example).
- Religious rituals (circumcision, baptism, etc.) do not save—faith does.
- The Law reveals sin but does not bring righteousness.
- True faith trusts in God's promises, even when they seem impossible.
- Jesus' resurrection is proof of our justification—salvation is complete in Him.
- *Romans 4 lays the foundation for the doctrine of justification by faith, showing that salvation is available to all—Jews and Gentiles*





# Family Time

A photograph of a diverse family of four sitting together on a couch. The father is in the center, looking down at an open book. The mother is on the right, also looking at the book. A young girl is on the left, and a young boy is in the center, both with their hands clasped in prayer. The scene is warm and intimate, suggesting a family activity like reading or prayer.

- God takes a famous person whom all Jews knew and respected to teach a key lesson:
- ALL ARE ACCEPTED
- ALL ARE WELCOME
- Use this to play a game of REPRESENT.
- Eg Elon Musk - who can he represent?
- All awkward geniuses
- All autistic individuals...etc
- Get your family to mention someone and who they can represent

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