

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 4: CIRCUMCISION & FAITH

The fourth chapter of Romans is a rich fountain of truth, but in order to grasp what Paul was trying to convey, it is important to determine the meaning of circumcision as he used it. Circumcision refers to Jews and uncircumcision refers to Gentiles. Only men were circumcised.

ORIGIN OF ABRAHAM

Abraham was born in the city of Ur, located in the southern part of Babylon known today as Iraq. The people dwelling in Ur were known as Chaldees and had their own language.

Abraham was a descendant of Noah's son Shem and the tenth generation from Noah.
Genesis 11:10-26

Noah copied the written account of Adam and Eve and life before the flood and he also recorded his own account of the flood and the ark. He also wrote about what took place at Babel, when God confounded the languages of the people. **Genesis 11:1-9**

The first eleven chapters of Genesis were passed from Noah to Shem and from Shem to the nine generations preceding Abraham. Noah also brought with him the Books of Enoch, which provided more details about life before the flood. The concept of a Savior and the term "Son of Man" is found in the Books of Enoch.

"At that hour, that Son of man was given a name, in the presence of the Lord of the Spirits, the Before Time, even before the creation of the sun and the moon, before the creation of the stars, he was given a name in the presence of the Lord of Spirits. He will become the light of the gentiles and he will become the hope of those who are sick in their hearts. All those who dwell upon the earth shall fall and worship before him; they shall glorify, bless, and sing the name of the Lord of Spirits. For this purpose he became the Chosen One; he was concealed in the presence of the Lord of the Spirits prior to the creation of the world, and for eternity." 1 Enoch 48:1-5

There is more Gospel in the Books of Enoch than in the first 11 chapters of Genesis.

The Gospel knowledge from the Books of Enoch were preserved for more than 4,000 years, and when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Chaldean wise men from the east came to worship the long awaited Messiah. **Matthew 2:1-12**

I am sure you have heard pastors ignorantly calling Abraham a Jew. This is simply not true because the word "Jew" was coined some 1,400 years after Moses, when people referred to the tribe of Judah living in Judea as "Jews."



THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

The Bible tells us that God called Terah to go to the land of Canaan, but he stopped once he came to the city of Haran in northern Babylon and did not go to the land of Canaan. **Genesis 11:25-32**

Terah refused to obey God and died in Haran. God then called his son to do what he should have done. **Genesis 12:1-7**

Paul makes a strong point in saying that Abraham's righteousness did not come from circumcision but because he trusted in God and walked with the Lord in faith. **Romans 4:1-10**

Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran and was circumcised at age 90. Circumcision did not save him; it was merely a sign that he was a follower of the living God.

Even Ishmael and all the male servants of Abraham were circumcised. **Genesis 17:9-27**

Circumcision is a sign and a seal that a man is made righteous through his faith in God and not good works. **Romans 4:11**

All previous covenants were made void when Jesus died on the cross and rose on the third day. There is no demand for circumcision under the second covenant. **Hebrews 8:3-13**

THE SIGN OF THE CIRCUMCISION

Abraham became the father of the Israelites (circumcision) and he also became a father to all Gentiles (uncircumcision) who have faith in the Messiah. **Romans 4:12**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?