

**ROMANS**  
**Lesson 130– August 31, 2014**

**Welcome To**  
**BARAH MINISTRIES**  
**a Christian Church**  
**Rory Clark**  
**Pastor-Teacher**

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a worldwide Christian Church based in Mesa, AZ...my name is Pastor Rory Clark. Welcome to a ministry committed to pursuing truth from the Word of God, and to seeing the Word of God from the Lord Jesus Christ's point of view.

**MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*  
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

**WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

As God prepares your soul for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS.

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Let us pray...*

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Show us what you are willing to do for us...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...  
Amen.

**TODAY'S STUDY**

**Romans 4**

**As Unbelievable as they May Seem, God's Promises are Guarantees**

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Abraham and his wife Sarah must have been the butt of many jokes during their lifetime, especially as they were advancing in years. Abraham was impotent and Sarah was barren, yet they both clung with faith to the hope that one day they would have a child. In this lesson, we'll learn why Abraham and Sarah had so much confidence in the face of their circumstance when everyone around them doubted. First, a few announcements...

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

September 14, 2014

Service From 6:00PM-7:30PM

Evening Service

*No Morning Service*

The Lord's Supper Celebration

A good time to bring a friend...

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

No face-to face teaching

October 6 and 19

November 16

December 7 and 28

Lessons will be provided on line.

Conversational Bible Study

Resident Congregation

September 24

7:00P-8:30P

Discuss your biblical questions with the Pastor. We had one last week.

Conversational Bible Study

Non-Resident Congregation

October 1

5:00P-6:00P MST

[pastor@barahministries.com](mailto:pastor@barahministries.com)

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If you'd like to participate, send me your email address so I can send you a Go-to-Meeting invitation.

Like  
BARAH MINISTRIES  
on  
Facebook

We're building quite an online community...nearly sixteen hundred people have joined us on Facebook. Get your friends to like us today!

Contribute to the Food Drive  
Help fight hunger in our community  
[unitedfoodbank.org](http://unitedfoodbank.org)

Non-perishable food is accepted or cash donations are accepted...\$1 provides food for five meals. Online donations accepted at [unitedfoodbank.org](http://unitedfoodbank.org)...be sure to mention Barah Ministries...

Let's take the offering. This is the time when you get to make a sacrifice on behalf of all the people around the world that can't afford to pay to study the Word of God. Your generous contributions make it possible for them to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ free of charge.

Let's remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

*Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.*

Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall.

**TODAY'S OFFERING**  
Deacon Denny Goodall

Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though we are sanctioned by God to charge for the many things we provide so you can worship God, we choose not to exercise our right.

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Therefore no price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.

**Barah Ministries Financial Policy**

Even though the materials we provide are free of charge, they are not free of cost. We appreciate it when the Word of God motivates you to give financial support so as to provide biblical teaching, both for yourself and for others. Please be generous in your support of God's work through this ministry.

**OFFERING VERSE**

ROM 4:19-20

*Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God...*

**OFFERING SONG**

*Your Grace is Enough*

**TODAY'S STUDY**

**Romans 4**

**As Unbelievable as they May Seem, God's Promises are Guarantees**

To the resident and non-resident members of Barah Ministries, to our guests who join us from time to time, and to all believers in Christ...grace and peace to you from God our Father. As believers in Christ we live steadfast in the absolute confidence that what God promises, He is also able to perform. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

1CO 13:13

*But now faith, hope, and unconditional love, abide in the sphere of these three; but the greatest of these three is unconditional love.*

We have faith when we place our confidence wholly in God, and never in ourselves. We have hope when we know that what God promises we can be absolutely confident that He will perform. God gives hope to our hopelessness. We rest when we know that God loves us unconditionally,

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and that mistakes are a real part of our Christian experience. Yet the faithful God does not ever hold our mistakes against us. In God, we have peace. God brings all three realities, faith, hope, and love into our existence. We certainly know when we demonstrate these qualities that nothing in us would ever want to do any of them.

As we continue our look into the lives of Abraham and Sarah...as we continue our study of righteousness and justification and faith...we take comfort in our humanness. Like Abraham and Sarah, we doubt God's promises. Matthew, Chapter 16, Verse 4...

MAT 16:4

*"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign..."*

Like the unbeliever, we believers seek for a sign, and if we simply notice, God will let us see it...turn in your bibles to Genesis, Chapter 17...imagine you are Abraham and Sarah, hearing these magnificent promises of God...what would you make of them? Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 1...

GEN 17:1

*Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD (Jehovah Elohim...God the Son) appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); walk before Me, and be blameless."*

The Lord reveals Himself to Abram by a new name...El Shaddai...the Almighty God...and He is about to give Abram a new name...

GEN 17:2

*"I (the Almighty God) will establish My covenant between Me and you (Abram), and I will multiply you exceedingly."*

GEN 17:3

*Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying...*

GEN 17:4

*"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations."*

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GEN 17:5

*“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.”*

Abram means “High Father,” but Abraham means, “Father of a Multitude of Nations.”

GEN 17:6

*“I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.”*

GEN 17:7

*“I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and your descendants after you, throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.”*

GEN 17:8

*“I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”*

God is promising Abraham two things...seed...and land. Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 9...

GEN 17:9

*God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.”*

GEN 17:10

*“This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.”*

GEN 17:11

*“And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”*

GEN 17:12

*“And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants.”*

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GEN 17:13

*“A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”*

Jewish males have a reminder, about ten times a day, of the covenant between God and the Jewish people. If they would notice, ten times a day as they excrete liquid from their bodies, they are reminded of an unbreakable covenant between God and the Jewish people. If you think God doesn't have a sense of humor, think it no longer. Take a five-minute break.

**BREAK**

*Somewhere over the Rainbow*

Welcome back! Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 14...

GEN 17:14

*“But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”*

This is an indication of free will. Some would choose to reject circumcision just as sure as some reject salvation...always with a consequence...wrath!

GEN 17:15

*Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.”*

GEN 17:16

*“I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”*

The Almighty God makes it clear that Ismael is not the son of promise. Abraham's handling of his own problem in Genesis 16 simply complicated his life. God's plan is never deterred or hindered by our mistakes. Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 17...

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GEN 17:17

*Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”*

GEN 17:18

*And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!”*

A man who is impotent and a woman who is barren are sexually dead. The Lord is able to resurrect from the dead. Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 19...

GEN 17:19

*But God said, “No (to Ishmael), but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac (which means “he laughs”); and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.”*

Human solutions are never the answer. Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 20...

GEN 17:20

*“As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.”*

GEN 17:21

*“But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”*

GEN 17:22

*When God finished talking with Abraham, God went up from Abraham.*

God makes it clear that this is HIS covenant, and He doesn't need any input from Abraham. Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 23...

GEN 17:23

*Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all the servants who were born in his house and all the servants who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's household, and Abraham circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, just as God had requested of him.*



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GEN 17:24

*Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.*

Ouch.

GEN 17:25

*And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.*

GEN 17:26

*In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son was circumcised.*

GEN 17:27

*All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.*

Abraham's obedience was a testimony of His faith in God. Now let's look at Genesis, Chapter 18...Abraham in fellowship with his God...walking with Him as God requested back in Genesis, Chapter 17, Verse 1...Genesis, Chapter 18, Verse 1...

GEN 18:1

*Now the LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.*

GEN 18:2

*When Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men (The Lord and two angels) were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth...*

GEN 18:3

*...and said, "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass your servant by."*

GEN 18:4

*"Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree..."*

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GEN 18:5

*“...and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant.” And they said, “So do, as you have said.”*

This is Abraham initiating fellowship with the Lord...a true indication of relationship. Genesis, Chapter 18, Verse 6...

GEN 18:6

*So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it and make bread cakes.”*

GEN 18:7

*Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant, and the servant hurried to prepare it.*

GEN 18:8

*Abraham took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.*

GEN 18:9

*Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And Abraham said, “There, in the tent.”*

GEN 18:10

*The Lord said, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son. And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.”*

This is the Lord reminding Abraham of the covenant that was made.

GEN 18:11

*Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing age.*

GEN 18:12

*Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”*

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GEN 18:13

*And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’”*

GEN 18:14

*“Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”*

GEN 18:15

*Sarah denied it however, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. And the Lord said, “No, but you did laugh.”*

Turn to Genesis, Chapter 21...as unbelievable as they may seem, the Lord’s promises are a guarantee...

GEN 21:1

*Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised.*

GEN 21:2

*So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him.*

GEN 21:3

*Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.*

GEN 21:4

*Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.*

GEN 21:5

*Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.*

GEN 21:6

*Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears I have a child at this age will laugh with me.”*

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GEN 21:7

*And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”*

As unbelievable as they may seem, the Lord’s promises are a guarantee...  
Genesis, Chapter 21, Verse 8...

GEN 21:8

*The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.*

Sarah’s laughter of unbelief was changed to laughter of faith...

ROM 4:20-21

*...yet, with respect to the promise of God, Abraham did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God the Father, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.*

Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 11...

HEB 11:11

*By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.*

As unbelievable as they may seem, the Lord’s promises are a guarantee...

### **The Promises of the Lord Jesus Christ**

When God makes a promise...  
it’s a guarantee!

When God makes a request do it...  
It’s for your good!

EXO 14:13

*“Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today...”*

ISA 40:29

*He gives strength to the weary, to him who lacks might He increases power.*

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1PE 5:6-7

*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God the Father, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

**CLOSING SONG**

I Can't Disappoint You

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...

**THANKS - INTERCESSION - PETITION**

And we pray You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are a reflection of Your unconditional love, Your Magnificent Person, Your perfect thinking, Your impeccable work, and Your indescribable essence... we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

Thanks for coming!  
Thanks for watching!  
Thanks for listening!

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