

## Abraham's Faith and Proto-*Pistis* in Galatians 3

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Galatians 3:6 can be paraphrased, with some information filled in from its preceding verse:

God supplied you with the Spirit and worked miracles among you from the message of the *Pistis*, just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Paul does not work with an analogy between Galatian believers' faith and that of Abraham. Rather, he argues on the basis of the analogy of the *Pistis*, which refers to God's eschatological economy of salvation as a whole (see my previous paper). Even his “justification by faith” occurred within this economy. It was created in its primitive form (Proto-*Pistis*) when God chose Abraham from among humanity, spoke to him with several promises of blessing, and Abraham departed in obedience to his word (Gen 12: 1ff.). This paper will discuss how Paul understood the foundations of this economy laid through the life of Abraham, in relation to some of the exegetical problems of Galatians 3:17: the “covenant,” “four hundred and thirty years,” and “previous ratification.”