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The Life of Abraham—Abraham and Isaac

The Test

Psalms Genesis 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Abraham had waited all his life for God to give him “the” son that was promised to him. The son that would be given the inheritance. That son was Isaac, and Abraham loved his son more than his own life. You know the feeling. You might say he treasured his son!

Treasures

Keeping Abraham and Isaac in mind, let’s talk about treasures. They fall naturally into four categories according to Charles R. Swindoll in his book called “Abraham”

Possessions – tangible, valuable things. Worldly goods. A diamond ring, a watch.

Vocation – you job or career. It has sustained you and brought you status in life. Many ministers have turned their vocation into a priceless treasure.

Dreams – Our dreams keep us going through the rough times in life. Olympians who have stood on the winner’s box and were awarded a medal, began with a dream. Many have sacrificed too much to accomplish their dreams.

Relationships – it can be a son, daughter, parent, spouse, friend. Any relationship can become a treasure that you sacrifice too much for.

It is the last point on which we pause, relationships. Have no doubt that Abraham treasured his son, Isaac.

In my prayer life I have confessed that my relationship to my wife is one of great love. We are soul mates. I tell her often, “I love you with all my heart”. Many times, I preface that statement with “After God”. It’s understood that God is always first. I learned that truth from God’s Word and I understand from it that I have my wife and family, it is because of Him and that they belong to Him.

(Genesis 22:2) Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

This verse always troubled me in my heart. My head understands the Theology behind it, but my heart says, “wait a second”, “his only Son”? by “only” I mean his heir.

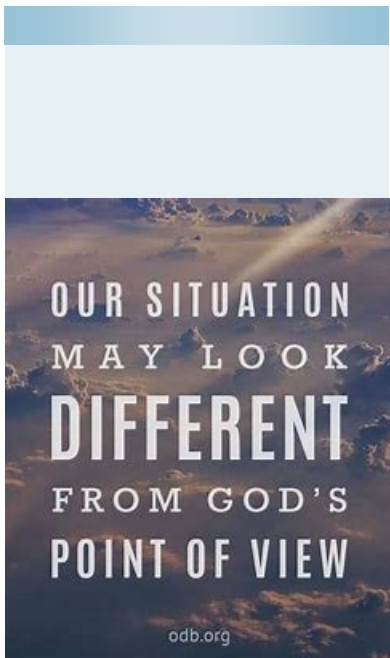
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Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

- James 1:12



God's Point of View

Let's look at it from God's viewpoint. He is Omniscience. He knows everything before it happens. God often teaches us valuable lesson by allowing us to experience and showing us things that relate to His will, His purposes. In typology, Abraham is an example of the heavenly Father, Isaac is a type of Christ in that he was offered as a sacrifice. Note that God sent His angel to stop Abraham. This is probably one of the top ten most important passages in the Bible, foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins.

"He didn't understand the situation, but he knew the righteous character of his God, and he believed the promises that he had made".

Genesis 22:3-8 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. (4) Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. (5) And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." (6) So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. (7) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (8) And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.


Issac a Type of Christ

Here are a several interesting thoughts to ponder: Isaac was in his thirties at this time. Possibly about 30 to 33 years old. Christ Jesus was approximately 33 when He was crucified. Abraham laid the wood on his son to carry where they would perform the sacrifice. Jesus bore the wooden cross on his back. The went to Mount Moriah which is the same mountain ridge where Jesus was crucified. Perhaps at the location of the Dome of the Rock. Isaac was obedient to his Father. There was no rebellion recorded in the scriptures when Abraham was ready to offer him as a sacrifice. Jesus said in

Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Abraham and Isaac trusted that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. Abraham was given a ram at that time, because Jesus would become the Lamb of God later on in fulfillment of prophecy. Abraham believed that if he sacrificed his son, God would raise him from the dead.

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, (18) of whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED," (19) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the



Isaac as a type of Christ

- The child of promise
- Born contrary to nature
- The fulfilment of the promise delayed (25:4000)
- Announced by an angel of God
- Described as the "only son"
- Offered up by God's command/will
- Obedient, even yielding willingly to death
- Place of sacrifice Mt Moriah/Zion
- Rose after three days

