

ISAAC AND CHRIST  
Gen. 22:1-14

Intro: There are two great lines of teaching which can be seen in the lives of Abraham and Isaac:

- 1) The first has to do with the spiritual lives of these men of God. Their biographies are rich in help for us today as we are permitted to see the Holy Spirit's record of God's ways with them.  
In this way chapter 22 really belongs more to Abraham than to Isaac. Abraham's faith was tested in many ways, but never more severely than when he was commanded by God to offer Isaac as a burnt offering!
- 2) The second has to do with the relationship between Abraham and Christ, and between Isaac and Christ. No one can really understand the Biblical record concerning the lives of these men if Christ is not kept in the forefront.  
Sometimes this is in the form of prophecies; sometimes as types.

A type is an OT representation of some NT truth. They are used to simplify the truth for us. They also show that the purpose of God for the world has always been centered in Christ.

In chapters 21, 22, 23, and 24 of Genesis we have an amazing study in types as they point ahead in a prophetic manner to the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely this is no accident.

Note the following:

- 1) In Genesis 21 we have the birth of Isaac.
- 2) In Genesis 22 we have the sacrifice of Isaac.
- 3) In Genesis 23 we have the death of Isaac's mother.
- 4) In Genesis 24 we have Abraham seeking a bride for Isaac.

How do they relate to Christ?

- 1) Genesis 21 presents the birth of Isaac with a threefold emphasis:
  - a) As the fulfillment of a promise.
  - b) As being on time.
  - c) As a miracle.(Note how all of these related to Christ. Cf. Gal. 4: 4, 5 for the second point.)
- 2) In Genesis 22 we have an amazing picture of the Cross which I will return to in a moment.
- 3) When Sarah dies in Genesis 23 we have a picture of Israel being set aside as a nation. This is certainly

given support by "the woman" of Rev. 12 who gives birth to the "man child," who is Christ. In no way can it be Mary; it has to be Israel.

Following the death of Christ Israel was set aside, passed from the scene, until God's present purpose for the Church is completed.

- 4) In Genesis 24 we have the present age in which we are living -- as God seeks a bride for His Son. The four types in Genesis 24 are:
- a) Abraham -- a type of God, the Father.
  - b) Isaac -- a type of Christ, the Son.
  - c) The servant -- a type of the Holy Spirit.
  - d) Rebekah -- a type of the Church.

As mentioned before -- these so closely parallel what God did and is doing that it cannot be accidental!

But let us go back to Genesis 22 for tonight. Here we have a marvelous OT picture of the death and resurrection of Christ. Note the details!

#### I. THE DESCRIPTION OF ISAAC (Gen. 22:2).

He was:

- A. Abraham's son. Not a stranger, <sup>nor an enemy,</sup> nor a servant.
- B. Abraham's only son. Ishmael had been sent away.
- C. Abraham's beloved son. For over 25 years he had waited for him to be born.

One of the greatest, unexplored (and unexplorable) truths of the NT is the love that God the Father and God the Son have for each other!

Gen. 22:2 reads almost like John 3:16.

#### II. THE REAL ISSUE (Gen. 22:2).

It is to be seen in the expression, "a burnt offering."

The New Testament teaches at least three reasons for the coming of Christ:

- 1) To complete the revelation of God to man.
- 2) To die for the sins of the world.
- 3) To manifest His unlimited and unconditional devotion to the Father.

The latter point is the issue here. It comes out frequently in the earthly ministry of our Lord.

III. THE BURDEN WHICH ISAAC CARRIED (Gen. 22:6).

Note that the burden was given to him by Abraham. How cruel this appears.

There is a twofold sense in which this was fulfilled in the death of Christ:

A. He bore His cross.

John gives us this information in 19:16, 17:

"Then delivered he him, therefore, unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he, bearing his cross, went forth into a place called The place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew, Golgotha."

But there was a much greater burden than this that our Lord carried:

B. He bore our sins. Cf. 1 Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:6.

IV. THE COMMUNION BETWEEN THE FATHER AND THE SON JUST BEFORE THE SON'S DEATH. Cf. Gen. 22:7, 8.

This takes us to:

A. Gethsemane.

B. Our Lord's words from the Cross:

1. "Father, forgive them . . ."

2. "My God, my God, . . ."

3. "Father, into Thy hands . . ."

These, like the love of the Son for the Father, are unexplorable!

V. THE OBEDIENCE OF THE SON (Gen. 22:9).

The Gospels tell us how the Lord began to tell His disciples about His death, and that, once He started for Jerusalem, nothing could turn Him away!

Paul describes our Lord's obedience in Phil. 2:5-8.

VI. THE DEATH OF ISAAC (Gen. 22:9-12).

Oh, but you say, he did not die! True, but it was in God's sight as though he had died. And he would have

died if God had not stopped it at the last second!

But, oh, how different it was with Christ. There was no voice to stop that terrible sacrifice. No intervention was seen at Calvary! Cf. Rom. 8:32.

And we have a picture of our Lord in the ram that was sacrificed in Isaac's place.

But it is no wonder that the heart of God was so moved by Abraham's obedience. Is our heart moved by the love of Christ for us?

The last point is this:

#### VII. THE RESURRECTION OF ISAAC.

Where do you find resurrection here, you say?

Turn to Heb. 11:17-19. (Read.)

And then relate this to Gen. 22:4, 5. Abraham fully expected to have to sacrifice Isaac, but he also knew, in view of the promises of God, that God would raise Isaac from the dead!

Cf. Acts 2:24 (which I want to preach on sometime):  
Speaking of Christ, "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

Concl: The very fact that all of this comes so early in the OT is clear evidence that even then it was very much upon the heart of God.

In fact, Rev. 13:8 speaks of our Lord as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." The death of Christ was so certain that God considered Him crucified from before creation itself.

If it means that much to God, shouldn't it mean much more to us than it does? Our hearts are often moved by the sacrifices of men, but unmoved by the sacrifice of Christ. What about you, believer? And what about you, if you have never trusted this One who died and was raised for you?

May the Lord Himself touch our hearts tonight with these great truths as He sees and knows our need!