

CHRIST SEEN IN ISAAC

July 8, 2018

Genesis 22:1-24

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

What could prompt a father to offer his son as a sacrifice? He must be either insane, or demonically deceived, or commanded and enabled by God. Abraham was uniquely enabled through faith: “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac from death. He knew that Isaac was the one through whom God would keep His covenant, for “God said unto Abraham . . . in Isaac shall thy seed be called” (Genesis 21:12; 15:2-6). He knew that God’s Word cannot fail. He believed that if Isaac died, God was bound by His own word to raise him from death. Abraham said confidently to his servants, “I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you” (Genesis 22:5). He demonstrated the truth Isaiah affirmed centuries later: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

When God instructed Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, He showed to mankind:

1. That animal sacrifice is not sufficient. Beginning with the death of animals whose skin clothed Adam and Eve, acceptable offerings were animal sacrifices (Genesis 4:1-5). But these could not remove sin, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me” (Hebrews 10:4, 5).
2. That the sacrifice had to be of greater worth than those for whom it was offered. If Isaac died, there would be no “seed of Abraham.” In Isaac, the entire race of Israel, physical Israel and spiritual Israel, was embodied (Romans 9:7, 8). Isaac’s life was more than all of those who would descend from him. Offering him in sacrifice constituted a sacrifice of greater worth than all of those who would have life through him. The same is true of Christ’s sacrifice at Calvary. Isaiah affirmed Christ’s worth with these words: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (9:6; see John 3:16, Romans 8:32).
3. That the sacrifice had to be offered; this was the only option for the fulfillment of God’s covenant.

4. That immense and incalculable reward was attached to the offering of this sacrifice (Genesis 22:16-18).

Isaac is the most complete type of Christ in the Old Testament:

- * Isaac's conception and birth were foretold (Genesis 18:10-14; Luke 1:31).
- * Isaac's birth was miraculous (Genesis 18:10, 11; 21:1, 2; Matthew 1:18).
- * Isaac was the "only begotten son" of his father (Hebrews 11:17; John 3:16).
- * Isaac was despised by his brother (Genesis 21:9; John 7:3, 5, Mark 6:4).
- * Isaac's brother suffered as a result of dishonoring him (Genesis 21:9-14; Matthew 23:37, 38).
- * Isaac was offered as a sacrifice by his father (Genesis 22:9, 10; Isaiah 53:10; Ephesians 5:2).
- * Isaac returned alive from the sacrifice (Genesis 22:5-19; Hebrews 11:19; I Corinthians 15:20-22).
- * "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come" (Hebrews 11:20).
- * Isaac became the head of a chosen people (Hebrews 11:12; Colossians 1:18).
- * Isaac became the channel through which the Savior came (Matthew 1:2-16).

Applications:

1. The comfort and encouragement of saints:

- a. You've not been tested to the limits that Abraham was tested.
- b. In the midst of testing, God will sustain you by His grace.
- c. Your testing is not arbitrary or purposeless, but is designed by God for good.
- d. If your testing is divine chastening, "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11).

2. Perseverance in faith will never be unrewarded.

3. Our sights must always be on the eternal, not the earthly.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of

them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:8-15).