

- ✓ We had seen last time how the events of Genesis Chapter 22 form the pinnacle to Abraham's life and how all the events from Genesis Chapter 12 to this point all worked together for good for the man who loved God and was called according to his purpose.

**Gen 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." **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."

- ✓ To say this same thing another way, Abraham had received what we know as the child training of the Lord, bringing him to the place that we see in these verses—

**Pro. 3:11** My son, do not despise the chastening [child training] of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; **12** For whom the LORD loves **He corrects**, Just as a father the son in whom he delights. **13** Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; **14** For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. **15** She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

- We can see here, in these verses, the correlation between the Lord's child training and finding wisdom and gaining understanding, the proceeds of which are better than the profits of silver and gold, nothing being comparable to them.
- And with respect to Abraham this is a self-evident truth —

**Rom 4:13** For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

- Abraham was promised that he would be 'heir of the world' and this promise was his through 'the righteousness of faith', through believing God and then organizing his life accordingly.

**Jam. 2:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **22** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? **23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. **24** You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

- And that which the Lord used to 'train' Abraham, to lead him into wisdom and understanding, thereby trusting God, were the experiences of his life, the trials, the tests, the good times and the bad — nothing was random and nothing was superfluous.

- ❖ And with respect to ourselves, what do we see?

**1Pet 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.

- ❖ The ‘various trials’ which we have, or may yet experience, are to prove the genuineness of our faith which is much more precious than gold, and to bring us to the place of wisdom and understanding where God wants us to be so that we may have patient endurance, and in this we are subject to the same process as Abraham.

**Heb 12:5** *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening [child training] of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten [child train]?*

- ❖ And as with Abraham, our child training is to bring us to wisdom and understanding –  
**1Cor 2:6** *However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.*

**Col 1:9** *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

**Ephes. 1:15** *Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

- ❖ Which in turn will produce in us patient endurance –

**2Pet 1:5** *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance [patient endurance], to perseverance [patient endurance] godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**2Tim 2:12** *If we [patiently] endure, We shall also reign with Him.*

- ❖ And so, we have the circumstances of our lives, the Word of God and that which God desires to teach us through them, but, to be taught by Him we need to have the willingness to learn, and to have the willingness to learn we must see the circumstances of our life for what they are – the child training of the Lord, and this will require spiritual discernment. As we said, not every test and trial is going to be God orchestrated and the question is how we are living our lives and do we know what our calling is?

**Mark 10:15** *"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."*

- ❖ Now, many times the trials and testings in our lives are going to come through other people, not just random people but other Christians. And it is all too easy to get tunnel vision in these times and see only the

person who has grieved us and what is wrong with them, from our perspective, for having done so rather than looking for what God is trying to teach us. And in doing this it is possible to reject the Lord's child training –

**Heb 12:8** *But if you are without chastening [child training], of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

**Deut 23:2** *"One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD;*

- ❖ This is typified in Orpah and Lot, but this should not be us – instead we can allow the child training of the Lord to bring us to that place of spiritual maturity that Abraham found –

**Rom 1:17** *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

- ❖ Going back to our Genesis 22 passage, we can see Abraham's actions reflected by the level of wisdom and understanding gained by subjecting himself to the process (child training of the Lord) along the journey.

**Gen 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." <sup>3</sup> 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.*

- There is no delay, no discussion, no excuses – having been told what to do, 'Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey'.
- ❖ We can see from v2 in the verses we just read, that God tells Abraham to take 'your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love' – And from the commentary we get in Hebrews Chapter 11, we find –  
**Heb 11:17** *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son...*
  - Isaac is described as Abraham's 'only son' and then as Abraham's 'only begotten son', which at first might appear strange as we know that Abraham has another son, Ishmael, who was living in the wilderness of Paran at this time.
  - But if we look at the details of the Lord's command and the type that it forms then all should become clear.
  - There are only 2 places in all of scripture where God requires human sacrifice – one is here with Isaac, which forms the type for the other, which is the Christ –  
**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- ❖ Now, God Himself has other sons – all angels are sons through their individual creation, Adam is a son, Israel is a son, but none of these could possibly pay the price required for sin, and certainly no man born of the flesh could –

**Rom 5:12** *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—*

- Isaac then, forms the type of the sin offering given at Mt. Calvary some 2000 years later –

**Heb 9:26** *He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

**Gen 22:3** *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.*

- ❖ There was a particular mountain that God had chosen for the sacrifice of Isaac that was a 3-day journey from Gerar in the land of the Philistines where Abraham was living, and it was on the ‘third day’ of this journey that ‘Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off’.
  - The reference to the 3rd day would not only take us to resurrection, but also to the Millennial Kingdom which Christ’s resurrection has made possible –  
**John 8:56** *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."*
- ❖ This is what Abraham saw when he lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off – Christ’s day/Day - not far in distance, but far in time. And this would not of itself speak of the 7<sup>th</sup> Day only, but also the day of the Lord’s crucifixion and the day of His resurrection.
- ❖ So how was it possible for Abraham ‘to see’ the Lord’s day/Day and therefore understand what was taking place with his own son on the same mountain that God would deal with His Son in the future? Well, the scripture tells us –  
**Gal 3:8** *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*
- ❖ And here it is – the gospel was preached ‘to Abraham beforehand’, before it was preached to the Gentiles. And that preached to Abraham is not another gospel, but the same gospel we have heard – the gospel of grace and the gospel of the glory of Christ; all then concerning the Lord’s birth, death, resurrection and coming Kingdom and this would have been preached to Abraham before the offering of Isaac, maybe even as far back as Ur of the Chaldeans.
- ❖ Let’s go back to Hebrews Chapter 11 for a moment –

**Heb 11:17** *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 dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

- We can see from the Lord’s commentary on Genesis Chapter 22 that Abraham did in fact offer up Isaac and received him back from the dead ‘in a figurative sense’. The word translated ‘figurative’ is the Greek word ‘parabole’, which we would normally expect to see translated as ‘parable’ – so, Abraham

received Isaac back from the dead in a ‘parable’, which we know to be one truth placed alongside another truth.

- So, let’s ask the question, which truth, was Abraham receiving Isaac back from the dead, placed alongside? And there can only be one answer – it is placed alongside the truth of the gospel that was preached to Abraham beforehand.
- And through this Abraham’s actions look back to Adam in one direction –  
*Gen 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*
- And forward to Christ in the other direction –  
*Acts 10:40 "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,*

- ❖ Abraham understood exactly what was taking place on Mount Moriah and knew full well that God would raise up Isaac from the dead if necessary, because God was going to raise up His Son, as was preached to him in the gospel, some 2000 years in the future; the gospel that would include the certainty that the Christ had been slain from the foundation of the world –

*Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--  
23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

- ❖ Now let’s add to this the fact that the Christ is Abraham’s Seed, through Isaac, ‘in Isaac your seed shall be called’, therefore Isaac must live to produce the descendants through Jacob and the 12 sons, the nation of Israel, out of whom the Christ would come and by whom He must be slain, something determined from the foundation of the world.
  - This then is what Abraham believed, trusting in the ‘determined purpose and foreknowledge of God’ concerning the good news of God’s Son and the 7th Day.

- ❖ Let’s go back and look at some detail –  
*Gen 22:6 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.*

- ❖ Making the ark of the covenant- Wood in scripture symbolizes humanity –  
*Exod. 37:1 Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 2 He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it.*

- ❖ The ark of the testimony presents a picture of the Christ, the One who came in the form of a man, acacia wood, but was also God, the wood overlaid with pure gold.
  - The mercy seat for the top of the ark however, is made entirely of pure gold as it is Deity alone who can deal with sin.
  - And in Genesis Chapter 22 the wood of the burnt offering is representative of humanity’s sin, which made both the wood carried by Isaac and the cross carried by the Christ necessary.



## IN THE BEGINNING – PART 13

- As Isaac carried the wood, Abraham ‘took the fire in his hand and a knife’ – And again we must look to the symbolism.
- Fire is used in scripture as a symbol of judgment –  
***Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.***
- As we would know, our works are tested by fire and that the Lord is described as having eyes like a flame of fire at the beginning of the Book of the Revelation.
- And judgment is always administered according to God’s revealed word, ‘the sword of the Spirit’, symbolized in the knife that Abraham took.
- In Genesis Chapter 22 God judged sin in accordance with His revealed word –  
***Gen 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.***
- ***Gen 4:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,***
- And 2000 years later at Calvary God judged sin in the person of the Living Word who had been revealed to mankind –  
***John 1:14a And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.....***  
And then Isaac asked THE question, ***“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.***  
Where is the lamb? Abraham’s response can have nothing to do with the ram caught in the thicket, because he didn’t know it was there and although he would have known of the sacrifice of God’s Son yet future, his present context in conjunction with his actions would have to place Isaac as the lamb God had provided in his thinking.
- In fact the answer to Isaac’s question is given 2000 years later – ***John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"***  
This is the Lamb that God would provide, the Lamb who had been slain from the foundation of the world, the One in whom the penalty of sin would be judged as He was nailed to a wooden cross symbolizing the iniquity of us all.
- As Abraham and Isaac went to the place of sacrifice they went alone, the men who had accompanied them on their journey were left behind with the donkey, no one witnessing what took place there. And as God the Father and God the Son came to the place of sacrifice together, they were alone also –  
Mat 27:45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.
- As the Father laid on His Son ‘the iniquity of us all’, this was hidden from human eyes as there was darkness over all the land.
- And so, the extraordinary detail of the type given on Mount Moriah continues to unfold.

**We will pick up from here the Lord willing. Let us remain diligent!**

### **Questions**

1. Read Proverbs 3:11-15 – What is the connection between v11-12 and 13- 15?
  - a. Is that contained in these verses from Proverbs true for Abraham and how would we know?
  - b. Can we apply this same truth to ourselves and if so in which scriptures can we see it?
  - c. What is required for us to benefit from the child training of the Lord and why might some reject it?
  - d. Read Hebrews 12:8 and Deuteronomy 23:2 – What can we learn from these verses?
2. Read Genesis 22:2 and Hebrews 11:17 – What is said about Isaac’s relationship to Abraham in these verses and how should we make sense of this because of Ishmael?
3. Read Genesis 22:3-8 – How many days does it take Abraham to travel from Gerar to the place of which God had told him?
  - a. What would we find significant about 3 days?
  - b. How should we understand Abraham seeing the place ‘afar off’? And which scripture did we look at to go with this?
  - c. How was it possible for Abraham to see the Lord’s day?
  - d. Read Hebrews 11:17-19 – What does it mean that Abraham received Isaac from the dead in a figurative sense? And what should we learn from this?
  - e. So, what exactly do you think Abraham understood about what was taking place on the mountain and what did this cause him to believe?

## IN THE BEGINNING – PART 13

4. Read Genesis 22:6-8 again – What does ‘wood’ symbolize in scripture and how would we know?
  - a. What does ‘fire’ symbolize in scripture and how would we know?
  - b. What does the knife symbolize and how would we know?
  - c. Putting all this together what is pictured through Isaac’s sacrifice?
  - d. How is this fulfilled in the antitype?
  - e. What question does Isaac ask and what is significant about Abraham’s answer?
  - f. Where can the actual answer to Isaac’s question to be found?
  - g. Why was it necessary for the 2 men who accompanied Abraham and Isaac to be left with the donkey while they went to the mountain?