

Gen.22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. **10** And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." **12** And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." **13** Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

❖ God's Son, our Savior willingly went to the cross and was fixed firmly to it with nails –

Isa. 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

And this is typified through Isaac willingly allowing himself to be bound and laid upon the wood on the altar. And really, there is no need to try to find an explanation for Isaac's willingness to be the sacrifice beyond the fact that the type and the antitype will correspond with one another exactly.

❖ And as Abraham stretched out his hand to slay his son, the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and told him not to lay his hand on his son or do anything to him. Abraham offered up the ram caught in a thicket behind him as a burnt offering instead of his son Isaac.

- Isaac himself was never going to be killed on Mount Moriah for a very simple scriptural reason. Although he was the son of promise and his birth was orchestrated by supernatural means, it was Abraham and not God who was his father. Isaac, like us all, had a sin nature and his death could not atone for his own sin or anyone else's. There was only one Man who would accomplish this, the only begotten Son of the Father, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, the One whom Isaac typified.
- Only this One, God's only begotten Son, could pay the price that the atonement for sin would require – **Heb. 9:12** Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with **His own blood** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, **having obtained eternal redemption.**
- And it is the Christ, the One who would die in our stead who is then pictured through the ram caught in the thicket – **John 19:5** Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"
- And it is the ram who died in Isaac's place – a substitutionary death, first seen in the past in the Garden - **Gen 3:21** Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
- A substitutionary death anticipating the Passover lambs in the future – **Exod. 12:5** 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.'
- All pointing to Christ, our Passover, our substitute, who would die in our place 2000 years beyond Abraham's lifetime – **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!"

- But, let's make no mistake. Isaac did die that day and was raised from the dead on the 3rd day. God accepted the ram in Isaac's stead, but from God's perspective Isaac had died and resurrection had taken place – the type and the antitype corresponding exactly.
- And Abraham receiving Isaac back from the dead is exactly what scripture records – **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.*
- ❖ And this foreshadows what happened on the night of Passover in Egypt - **Exod. 12:12** *'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.'*

Exod. 12:23 *"For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you."*

1Cor. 5:7b.....*For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

Gen. 22:14 *And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."*

- And we can praise the Lord that He provided for Himself a Lamb as an offering for our sin.

Gen. 22:15 *Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son - 17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

- ❖ And it is immediately after the sacrifice of Isaac that the promise to Abraham is re-affirmed, with the added detail that Abraham's descendants, both the 'stars of the heaven' [the heavenly realm of the Kingdom – the Church] and 'the sand which is on the seashore' [the earthly realm of the Kingdom - Israel] 'shall possess the gate of their enemies'.
- ❖ We will remember from the account of Lot that the gate of a city is the place where the governance of that city was administered from and so to 'possess the gate of their enemies' would be to take the place of governance from them and to rule in their stead.
 - For those who are the descendants of Abraham by faith, to whom the Kingdom of the heavens is being offered, the 'Church', our enemies are Satan and his fallen angels who currently rule from the heavens over the earth – **Ephes. 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

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But, the clear statement of scripture is that this present system of rulership will be replaced by Christ, the Seed of Abraham and His co-heirs and they will rule from the heavens in their stead.

- For those who are the physical descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, the nation of Israel, they have the same enemies whose actions are more directly seen through the worldwide rule of the Gentile nations and their persecution of God's chosen people.
But again, the clear statement of scripture is that Gentile world power will be overthrown, and Israel will rule at the head of the nations from Jerusalem.

- ❖ And once the physical descendants of Abraham through repentance and in obedience occupy their rightful place with respect to the nations and fulfill the purpose for which they were called into existence, to be God's firstborn son, His witness throughout the earth, then both spiritual and material blessing will flow from them to the nations, something that has never yet been seen - ***Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."***
- ❖ And we see, from the verses in Genesis, that this will be brought to pass because Abraham obeyed the voice of the Lord, because he had faith to the saving of the soul; setting his mind on things above and not on things on the earth.
 - And Abraham's obedience on Mount Moriah in one sense foreshadowed Israel's future obedience on the same mountain in Jerusalem 2000 years later when they slew the Passover Lamb, Israel's only Son, in accordance with the voice of the Lord, even though they did so unwittingly – ***Exod. 12:5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.***
- ❖ The type continues to unfold;

Gen.22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba. 20 Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, "Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: 21 Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, 22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." 23 And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

- The first thing we will want to note here is that 'Abraham returned to his young men', **there is no mention of Isaac returning with him.**
- Now, from an entirely natural perspective we would know that Isaac did not stay on the mountain, and there is no reason to suppose that he did not return to Beersheba with his father. So, the question we would want to ask is why in the composition of the written account in the scriptures does God deliberately make no mention of Isaac? We would know by now that this is not an oversight, right?
- And the answer to the question is an easy one, it is to preserve the integrity of the type.
Following the Lord's resurrection and ascension He remains in a distant place, at the right hand of His Father, until He comes forth to meet His Bride halfway between His home and her home - ***1Thes. 4:17***

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- And in the type, that points to this, we do not see Isaac again from Genesis Chapter 22 until Genesis Chapter 24 when he comes forth to meet Rebekah, halfway between his home and hers - **Gen 24:62**
Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. 64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; 65 for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.
 - And the result of Abraham's oldest servant completing his mission is found in – **Gen. 24:67** *Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (Q – When did Isaac's mother die?)*
 - ❖ Here is the picture of the Bride of Christ becoming the Wife of Christ, having been previously removed from His body at the Judgment Seat and presented back to Him following the resurrection/rapture, just as is set out with Adam and his wife in foundation – **Gen.2:23** *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*
 - ❖ And so, with the Man, the Christ, now complete with His Wife and the Wife now complete with her Husband, rulership in the 7th Day will begin – **Ruth 4:9** *And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."*
 - ❖ At this point in our lesson, I would like us to see a series of events after the birth of Isaac that the Lord requires us to know and understand. This sequence of events is not exhaustive in and of itself, but does provide a panoramic timeframe that is invaluable in our understanding of the scriptures.
 - And so, once again, the birth of Isaac in Gen. 21, pictures the birth of the Christ. **Gen 21:1** *And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.*
- As we have previously seen, the miraculous birth of Isaac provides the type for the miraculous birth of our Lord – **Luk.1:34** *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*
- The next event is the sacrifice of Isaac in Gen. 22, pointing to the sacrifice of the Christ - **Gen 22:8** *And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."*

John 1:29b "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- What we see next is the death of Sarah in Gen. 23. We know that Abraham is a type of God the Father. So, Sarah is a type of the nation of Israel, the Wife of Jehovah, who brought forth the Promised Son. And in **Gen. 23:1** *Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.*

The death of Sarah pictures the ‘death’, the setting aside of Israel, following the Lord’s death and resurrection as He turns His attention to the Church during the 2000 years of this present dispensation. **Acts 28:27** *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”* **28** *“Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” **29** *And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves. (Mat. 21:43; 1 Cor. 10:32)**

- And that which is to take place during the 2000 years of this dispensation is set out in the type presented in - **Gen 24:2** *So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please, put your hand under my thigh, 3 ”and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; 4 ”but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”*

Just as Abraham’s oldest servant went to Abraham’s family to find a bride for Isaac, the young woman being the granddaughter of Milcah, whose name is derived from a word meaning ‘queen’, so God the Father’s ‘oldest servant’, the Holy Spirit, has been sent into the world to search out a Bride for God’s Son, amongst the eternally saved, God’s family and this Bride is destined to become Christ’s Consort Queen. This is where we find ourselves today, and this is going on amongst us even now –

John 16:5 *“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’* **6** *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.* **7** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.* **8** *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:* **9** *of sin, because they do not believe in Me;* **10** *of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;* **11** *of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.* **12** *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.* **13** *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.* **14** *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.* **15** *All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He [c]will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

- Then beyond the acquisition of the Bride for God’s Son the account of Abraham takes us to the conclusion of the matter, the Millennial Kingdom, in Genesis Chapter 25 –
Gen 25:1 *Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah.* **2** *And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.*

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Here then is God the Father, again taking a wife, a wife whose name, ‘Keturah’ means the sweet-smelling aroma of an offering for sin, picturing Israel in repentance, restored, healed and fruitful, such as she has never been before. Here then is the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham, the fulfillment of His purpose set out in Genesis Chapter 1, the fulfillment of the gospel preached to Abraham and to us and we will be there in that Day when that seen in Genesis Chapters 24 and 25 is brought to pass. Whatever we do let us be ready for it; let us be neither casual nor complacent, nor let us lean on our own understanding, but rather, let us trust the Lord as our father Abraham did so that we may rejoice in seeing the Lord’s Day – ***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...13 therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;***

Ephe.5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish...32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

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

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 22:9-13 – Why was Isaac bound and placed on the wood on the altar?
 - a. From a scriptural standpoint, why was it impossible for Isaac to be literally sacrificed and which scripture did we look at connected to this?
 - b. Who does the ram caught in the thicket symbolize and which scripture did we look at with this?

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- c. What event does the sacrifice of the ram look back to in Man's past and what event did it look forward to in what was then Man's future?
 - d. Did Isaac die that day, and if so how did he die?
 - e. What other examples for this do we have and which scriptures did we look at?
2. Read Genesis 22:15-18 – What takes place in these verses and what is significant about them?
- a. Read Genesis 22:19-20 – Who is missing from this account and why is he not there?
 - b. When do we see Isaac again and what is the type presented here?
 - c. Which scriptures did we look at connected to this?
3. What does God reveal to us through Genesis Chapters 21-25? [Look at each individual Chapter, say what is significant about it and look for an accompanying scripture]
4. What has stood out to you the most from our study of the life of Abraham?

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- a. Since our focus is the nation of Israel, what/who should be our next lesson focus on?

Any final thoughts?