

TESTED UNTIL PERFECTED

PART # 2

11-17-24

THE OFFERING UP OF ISAAC BY ABRAHAM

GENESIS 22: 1 – 19 - SERIES TEXT

GENESIS 22: 2 – 6 - TODAY'S TEXT

* 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 11 – “Now all these things happened unto THEM FOR ENSAMPLES (AS EXAMPLES TO US) and THEY ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION (WARNING), UPON WHOM THE ENDS OF THE WORLD (AGE) ARE COME”.

* WHAT WAS “CONCELED” IN THE OLD TESTAMENT – IS “REVEALED” IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!

* HEBREWS 11: 1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.

* “TRUE FAITH” IN GOD – IS THE ABILITY TO SEE AND BELIEVE GOD, IN THE “DARK” OF CIRCUMSTANCES!

GALATIANS 3: 6 – “EVEN AS ABRAHAM (A GENTILE) BELIEVED GOD (BY FAITH), IT WAS ACCOUNTED (IMPUTED) TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (BEING IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD)”.

GALATIANS 3: 7 – “Know ye therefore that THEY WHICH ARE OF FAITH, THE SAME ARE THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM”.

Doubtless, the Jewish teachers were maintaining that in order to be real “Sons of Abraham”, the Galatians had to be circumcised. The Apostle Paul refused this. The real “Sons of Abraham”, are not those who are born Jews, or are those who become Jewish converts, but those who are saved by “FAITH”. In ROMANS 4: 10, 11, the Apostle Paul shows that Abraham was reckon “RIGHTEOUS”, before he was circumcised. In other words, ABRAHAM WAS “JUSTIFIED” (JUST AS IF HE HAD NEVER SINNED), WHILE HE WAS STILL A GENTILE!

GALATIANS 3: 8 – “And the Scripture, forseeing that God would justify the HEATHEN (THE GENTILES) THROUGH FAITH, preached before the GOSPEL until Abraham, saying, IN THEE SHALL ALL NATIONS BE BLESSED”.

The blessings, as a result of "FAITH", for both JEW AND GENTILE, was not only foreseen in the Old Testament Bible, but was actually announced to Abraham, in GENESIS 12: 3 "AND YOU AND ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED".

GALATIANS 3: 9 – "So then they WHICH BE OF FAITH ARE BLESSED WITH FAITHFUL ABRAHAM".

GALATIANS 3: 10 – For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the Book of the Law to do them".

GALATIANS 3: 11 – "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith".

GALATIANS 3: 12 – "And the law is not of faith: but, the man that doeth them shall live in them".

GALATIANS 3: 13 – "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for his written, CURSED IS EVERYONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE":

GALATIANS 3: 14 – "THAT THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE (HOLY) SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH".

THE MOUNTAIN OF MORIAH WAS A PLACE OF SACRIFICE

GENESIS 22: 2 – "And He said, take now thy son, but only son Isaac, whom thou love us, and get thee into the LAND OF MORIAH; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS which I will tell thee of".

The "LAND OF MORIAH", is presently where the nation of Israel is, and the "MOUNT (MOUNTAIN) OF MORIAH, is on the Eastern edge of Jerusalem. The name "MORIAH" means "CHOSEN OF JEHOVAH". So the "LAND OF MORIAH" – is is "THE LAND CHOSEN BY JEHOVAH FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE".

ABRAHAM NAMED THE "MOUNTAIN OF MORIAH", WHERE HE OFFERED UP HIS SON (GENESIS 22: 14), "JEHOVAH JIREH", MEANING "THE MOUNTAIN IN WHICH GOD SEES (PERCEIVES) AND PROVIDES"!

About a thousand years later, at the same very location and which Abraham offered his son Isaac, King David bought the threshing floor, from "Araunah the Jebusite" and built an alter to the Lord, so that a "Plaque may be held back from the people" (2 SAMUEL 24: 18, 21). After David's death his son King Solomon build a glorious temple on the same site. "Solomon Temple", lasted for over 400 years until it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar's armies, in 587 -586 BC. Seventy years later, the temple was rebuild on the same site by the Jews who returned to Jerusalem following their Babylonian captivity. Around the first century, king Herod made a significant addition to this structure, which then became became known as "Herod's Temple". It was the temple that Jesus cleansed (JOHN 2: 15).

However, in A.D.70, the Roman army's, led by "Titus", son of" Emperor Vespasian", once again destroyed the temple. All the remains of the temple mount of the era, is it a portion of the retaining wall

known as the “Western Wall” or “The Wailing Wall”. It’s been the destination for pilgrims and a site of prayer, for the Jewish people, for many centuries.

The God who first called Abraham to “Mount Moriah”, still has plans for this place. The Bible indicates that the “Third Temple”, will be built on or near the side of Solomon’s Temple (DANIEL 9:27). This would seem to present a problem given the political obstacles that stand in the way. The religious activities on the temple mount are currently controlled by the “Supreme Muslim Council” (Jordan). Yet nothing can put a wrinkle on God’s sovereign plans. That the Muslims control of this area, simply fulfills the prophecy in LUKE 21:24, that Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles and “Until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”.

* GENESIS 22: 3 – “And ABRAHAM ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and ISAAC HIS SON, and CLAVE (SPLIT) THE WOOD for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him”.

SUBMISSION TO GOD – TRUE FAITH IN GOD DOES NOT RESIST GOD’S CALLING

* GENESIS 22: 4 – “Then on the THIRD DAY Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place of far off”.

*GENESIS 22: 5 – “And Abraham said unto his young men, abide ye here with the donkey; and I and the lad will go yonder and WORSHIP, AND COME AGAIN TO YOU”.

*GENESIS 22: 6 – “And Abraham took the WOOD of the burnt offering, and LAID IT UPON ISAAC HIS SON; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together”.

ISAAC’S SUBMISSION TO GOD’S CALLING FOR HIS SACRIFICE

Abraham was not the only one who showed faith. Isaac also showed faith, by willingly being led to the slaughter, when he probably could have easily overpower Abraham. Isaac willingly carried the wood and He must of knew, that his father Abraham, would use and offer up him, as a “Burnt Offering” and after he took the knife, that would kill him. Like his father Abraham, Isaac’s “FAITH IN GOD AND HIS WORD”, HAD GROWN STRONG!

The protestant reformer John Calvin explained that Isaac, is not to be thought of, as a simple one, of the common company of men, but as one who contain the example of Christ in himself.

JESUS’ SACRIFICIAL DEATH AND ISAAC’S NEAR SACRIFICE MOST LIKELY OCCURRED WHEN THEY WERE THE SAME AGE

Many christians and Jews disagree about Isaac’s age, at the time of his near sacrifice. Many christians have relied upon Abraham’s reference to Isaac as a “Lad”, to assume that he was only a teenager, thus, most of the classical christian paintings, from the Renaissance era, believe Isaac as a young boy. But according to the Jewish Talmud, he was believed to be closer to 37 at the time of the account. This is based upon the fact that Sarah died, after this account, at the age 127 (GENESIS 23:1). She gave birth at the age of 90 (GENESIS 17: 17, 21).

The Jewish historian, “Josephus”, believed that Christ Jesus was 33 years old, when he died on the cross. Thus, assuming that there was no significant time gap between GENESIS CHAPTER 22 and 23,

and the Bible mentioned none – then Isaac was most likely closer to the age of 37, then being a teenager at that time of this test of faith.

The age of Isaac at the time of this great testing of faith, is not one of the main points of the story, but in any case of age – as a teenager or at the age 33 or 37; Isaac fully knew what was the what was about to happen and there's no indication, in the Bible, that Isaac provided any struggle or resistance, to his father Abraham's purpose.

* So, I think we should remove the image of a helpless young boy, being led obviously to his death, and replace it with the image of an adult man, in full control of this faculties, who willingly held up his wrist, for his father to bind – not unlike Christ Jesus, who for the love of His Heavenly Father, held up His wrists to be bound and endured the pain and shame of the cross! Also, since the details of the near sacrifice of Isaac, at the hands of his father Abraham – matches so perfectly, to the sacrifice and death of our Savior and Lord Christ Jesus, who died between the ages of 33 or 37 – so the near death of Isaac, at the hands of his father and Christ Jesus' sacrifice, at the hands of His Heavenly Father – then in both of these events, most likely, the age of Isaac in his near death, as a sacrifice and in the actual sacrifice of Christ Jesus – their ages were the same.

GENESIS 22: 6 – “And Abraham took the WOOD of the burnt offering, and LAID IT UPON ISAAC HIS SON; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together”.

CHRIST JESUS ALSO CARRIED HIS (WOODEN) CROSS TO HIS DEATH – THE “WOOD” THAT WAS LAID UPON ISAAC'S SHOULDERS SYMBOLIZED THE WOODEN CROSS (BEAM) THAT CHRIST JESUS CARRIED TO HIS DEATH

* JOHN 19: 16 – “Then delivered he Him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led Him away”.

JOHN 19: 17 – “And He BEARING HIS CROSS (ON HIS SHOULDERS) went from into a place called the place of the skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha”:

LIKE ISAAC, CHRIST JESUS WAS OBEDIENT TO DEATH

PHILIPPIANS 2: 8 – “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the Cross”

Christ Jesus could have resisted but he chose not to do so. Christ Jesus, like Isaac, could have easily escape from his captors. BUT HE SUBMITTED TO THE WILL OF GOD THE FATHER, Just like Isaac submitted to the will of his father and was a willing sacrifice.

CHRIST JESUS ALSO CAME TO JERUSALEM RIDING A DONKEY (MATTHEW 21: 5), TO BARE THE WOODEN CROSS (BEAM) ON HIS SHOULDERS – JUST LIKE ISAAC DID, RIDING A DONKEY TO WHAT WOULD BE JERUSALEM AND HAVING THE WOOD PUT ON HIS SHOULDERS!

JAMES 1: 2 – “MY BREATHREN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YE FALL INTO DIVERS (DIVERSE) TEMTATIONS (FROM SATAN AND “TESTS” FROM GOD, BY MEN)”;

* GOD SETS A HIGH VALUE UPON US, AND THEREFORE HE TESTS US!