**Genesis 22 Abraham and Isaac 2019**

**Genesis 22:1-18**

It had to be a horrific experience for Abraham to be told by the Lord to offer the son he and Sarah had been waiting to have and for such a long time. A son whom he and Sarah and tried to get on their own terms and of course failed. Anything done then and now on human terms will fail. Only that which is done the Lord’s way will succeed.

Sarah guaranteed failure when she suggested the Abraham take Hagar as his wife so to speak and thereby get a son. This seems to be a repeat of Eve getting Adam to sin in the Garden of Eden. Both Adam and Abraham should have known better and declined the temptation. Nothing at all works very well unless we are doing what the Lord wants for us! Nothing! Absolutely nothing.

In our human way of thinking, it had to be terribly cruel for the Lord to command that Abraham’s son Isaac be a sacrifice. It had to be somewhat easier for Abraham though to follow the Lord’s direction since he and Sarah had tried on their own to get a son. They got one but he turned out to be a wild kind of man – a man under the law who knew nothing of the Lord.

Abraham was told then to take Ishmael and Hagar into the dessert and to leave them there and have nothing to do with him at all. Isaac would be the son of the promises of the Lord.

**Genesis 16:11-12 (NIV)**
11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: (Hagar) "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery.
12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Just before Abraham tool Ishmael and Hagar into the desert, he was circumcised and this meant the Lord had forgiven His past and that he was on the right road spiritually. God had entered into a Covenant relationship with Abraham and his wife Sarah.

It is interesting to note that on a number of occasions Abraham prayed for Ishmael that he would be a follower of the Lord!

**Genesis 17:18 (NIV)**
And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

(Actually, this as I see it, shows the love Abraham had for Ishmael. Despite what the angel had said about him)

**Genesis 22:1-2 (NIV)**
Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.
Then God said, "Take your son, **your only son,** Isaac, **whom you love**, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

The Lord used Abraham’s name. His original name was Abram. But the Lord added the h to his name as He spoke directly to him. He also added the same h to Sara’s name – the breath of God. The Lord recognizes that Isaac was **Abraham’s only son**. **And that Abraham loved him**. The Lord knew that this command would tax Abraham emotionally. The command struck right at the Abraham’s heart. It struck at his very insides. He and Sarah would see the death of all their hopes and desires.

The words the Lord used for “**your only son**” refer to a son who cannot be replaced. A special boy. And it is felt by scholars that Isaac was just fifteen years old. It would be a tragedy for a father – also a mother – to loose such a son. Since he was the only one.

If Isaac were to be offered as a sacrifice, then the promises of God would be counterfeit. God would be a liar. Abraham would not be really following the true God. God would not be God. Abraham would be on a wild goose chase.

We could even use the word “**begotten**” when it comes to Isaac. A special son, a special birth! A promised son from the Lord! While Isaac was an only son loved by his father and undoubtedly by his mother – he is not begotten. That connotation is for Jesus only. His mother was a virgin; Sarah was not.

As we confess in the Creeds Jesus was begotten not made! We confess that Jesus is one substance with the Father – Very God of very God – By Whom all things were made.

Also the word begotten refers to anyone who is born again. We are begotten of the Lord and we have a special God produced birth. There are many Bible verses which use the word begotten – used in relationship to the birth of Jesus – a special birth brought by the work of the Holy Spirit.

While Isaac had a special birth, we cannot use the word begotten in the same way we would apply it to Jesus.

Isaac was a son of the promises of the Lord and those who are born again are also sons and daughters of the promises of the Lord. PTL!

**Genesis 22:3-4 (NIV)**
3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.
4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

Hebrews 11:17 speaks of the offering of Isaac in this way:

**Hebrews 11:17-19 (NIV)**
17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,
18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

The Lord was now asking Abraham to totally give up his future hopes, his future plan, and to trust the Lord by doing what seemed senseless and tragic. Abraham was to surrender to the Lord. Give it up. Do things totally the Lord’s way!

Abraham did not plead with the Lord! He simply obeyed the Lord. He got up early that morning, and follows the Lord’s directions.

**Psalm 119:60 (NIV)**
I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.

Abraham went up then to Moriah. Moriah and Calvary are the same thing – located near Jerusalem.

Abraham’s obedience to the Lord was so complete that he even had split wood for the sacrifice! Wood evidently would be scarce on Moriah so he got ready for the trip.

**Genesis 22:5 (NIV)**
He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there**. We will worship and then we will come back to you."**

The word worship here means to bow totally down to the Lord. He trusted the Lord so perfectly that he just knew that he and Isaac would come back and join the servants again. It shows his determination. He shows His faith. It shows that He knew the Lord and the Lord knew him. They were friends.

Abraham trusted the Lord to follow through on His promises to him and Sarah and also to Isaac. He believed in the resurrection of the dead as we seen in Hebrews. No one at that time had seen or knew of a resurrection of the dead.

(Elijah)

Abraham was the son of Terah – Terah was an idol worshipper. Despite his beginnings, the Lord moved him and Sarah and Isaac to Canaan where the Lord promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation,

And it was unlikely that Sarah would give birth at ninety years of age! She too then joined Abraham that through Isaac she would be involved in the making of this great nation. Abraham was one hundred years of age when Isaac was born. Nothing is impossible with the Lord!

And just as Abraham raised his knife – suppressing his love for his son – raising his knife to take Isaac as a sacrifice – the LORD SPOKE AND SAID STOP! I have provided here a ram for the sacrifice!

This all points to Jesus. It took place on Calvary where Jesus died for us and overcame sin and death. And rose again for us. Jesus resurrection points to the fact that Satan was not the winner – that the Lord was the only one to overcome sin, death and the power of the devil.

**Hebrews 9:15 (NIV)**
15  For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

**Hebrews 9:28 (NIV)**
28  so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

**Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)**
4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Nothing is said about Isaac other than he carried the wood and ask where the sacrifice was? It reminds me of Jesus in Gethsemane and the struggle Jesus went through there – sweating drops of blood – and the fact Jesus carried His cross on the way to Golgotha – Mt. Moriah. And it was Abraham who is a type of the Father who supplied Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins.

There was a type of resurrection there as well – as Jesus rose from the grave – and ascended into heaven. We too die with Christ and have been made new through Jesus. And we will be with Jesus throughout eternity.