

## **ON A HILL FAR AWAY: ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND THE LAMB**

Genesis 22:1-14

Hebrews 11:17-19: "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."

John 8:56: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."

Gen. 22:4: "Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off."

### **I. The Test**

Genesis 22:1-4

A. Abraham got past his past.

Gen. 22:1a: "And it came to pass after these things..." In the previous chapter God tells us that Isaac has been born, Hagar and Ishmael departed and Abraham's final lapse of faith by not trusting God to take care of his family and himself takes place. A covenant with Abimelech is made and he is ready for whatever God's next command is. I am reminded of Psalm 36:9: "For with thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light." When we obey the light God gives us, He will give us more instruction full of the light of life. Genesis 22:1c: "...Behold, here I am."

B. A relationship is revealed.

Gen. 22:2a: "And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest..." The Hebrew gives the connotation of an "only begotten son." This is confirmed in the New Testament in Hebrews 11:17c, when Isaac is referred to as Abraham's, "...only begotten son." God is also reminding us that the scheme of Sarah and Abraham to fulfill God's promise of a son through Haggar is not acceptable. We also see that the relationship between father and son is recognized by God and noted by these words in Genesis 22:2b, "...whom thou lovest..." This takes us to John 3:35a and John 5:20a, where Jesus declares, "The Father loveth the Son..."

C. The place is designated.

In Genesis 22:2b God tells Abraham, "...Get thee into the land of Moriah," and further explains in Genesis 22:4b, "...the place of which God had told him." The

place of which God has designated holds more than mere significance. In this, the first book of the Bible, a narrative is given which includes a father, his only begotten son, a sacrifice on a hill far way, a three day journey from where the trip started. So much happened in this three day period. There are too many “coincidences” to be coincidence.

## II. The Compendium

Gen. 22:4-7

A. It was public.

In Genesis 22:3b, the Bible says Abraham, “...took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son....” As we read these words, I advance into the New Testament to John 19:18, where it reads, “Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.” What happened on Moriah’s mount that day involved more than Abraham and Isaac; it would effect the entire world.

B. It was private.

On the third and last day of their journey Abraham says to the young men in Genesis 22:5b, “...Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship....” The Jewish writers tell us in the midst of the crucifixion event, “...there was darkness over all the land...” (Matthew 27:45b), “...there was darkness over the whole land...” (Mark 15:33b). Then the Gentile writer, Luke records, “there was a darkness over all the earth...” (Luke 23:44b). There was something so personal between the father and the son on Mount Moriah, that God does not permit the public to behold it. There was darkness over the “all” the land, Matthew tells us. Then Mark tells us there is darkness over the “whole” land. Finally, Luke tells us darkness was over the “whole earth.” This informs us that what was happening in the dark would effect not only the land of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, but it would effect the entire world, as John 3:16 reminds us, “For God so loved the world....”

C. It was propitiatory.

In Genesis 22:6 it says, “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.” In the next verse Isaac inquires, “...Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7c). Isaac understood that they were carrying the accouterments for sacrifice. The designation is apparent. Isaac, the object of sacrifice is carrying the wood he is to lay upon. Abraham, the executioner of the sacrifice appropriately carries the knife, representing the wrath of God and the fire representing the judgment of God.

D. It was a precursor.

Genesis 22:8b: “...My son, God will provide Himself a lamb....” Genesis 22:14 goes on to say, “And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to

this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.” Placing these thoughts together, God is saying, “The provision of the Lord shall be made and it shall be seen in the mount of the Lord.”

### III. The Exchange

Genesis 22:9-14

#### A. The Binding

Genesis 22:9: “And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. “

#### B. The Faith

Genesis 22:10: “And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.” Do not think for a moment that Abraham believed it was the end of God’s promise through Isaac. The promise was given in Genesis 18:10a, b: “And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son....” Even though the hardest thing that Abraham was about to do was about to happen, he knew that he would return from this hill with a living son as Hebrews 11:19a, b informs us, “Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead....” Even in Genesis 22:5c, we see Abraham approached this with full belief that this was not the end of Isaac and the covenant promise, for he told the young men in Genesis 22:5c, “...I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.”

#### C. The Vicarious Substitution

##### 1. Christ steps up.

Genesis 22:11: “And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.”

##### 2. Isaac steps down.

Genesis 22:13: “And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.”

##### 3. The promise is backed up by prophecy.

Genesis 22:14: “And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”

