

Isaac – Lessons in Submissive Love

Text: Genesis 17:19 - 35:29 but read Genesis 22:1-14

Genesis 22:1-14 HCSB After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered. (2) "Take your son," He said, "your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." (3) So early in the morning Abraham got up, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about. (4) On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. (5) Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you." (6) Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the sacrificial knife, and the two of them walked on together. (7) Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father." And he replied, "Here I am, my son." Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" (8) Abraham answered, "God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Then the two of them walked on together. (9) When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. (10) Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. (11) But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He replied, "Here I am." (12) Then He said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me." (13) Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. (14) And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said: "It will be provided on the LORD's mountain."

Biographical introduction:

Picture of Isaac:



1. Genesis 21:3 - Isaac, whose name means Laughter, was the son of Abraham and Sarah.
2. Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:34 - He was the long awaited child who had been promised to Abraham and is in the direct line of Jesus Christ.
3. Genesis 18:11-12 - Abraham at 100 was sexually dead. Thus the birth of Isaac at Gerar (about 1900 BC) was miraculous.

Picture of Abraham sacrificing Isaac by William Blake



4. Genesis 22:2 - As a teenager was to be sacrificed by his father but was spared by the divine provision of a ram in a thicket.

Picture of Rebekah at the well



5. Genesis 24:67; 25:20 - When he was 40 years old he married Rebekah (which means “ensnarer”) who had been sought out by his father's unnamed servant.
6. Genesis 25:9 - Although there had been difficulties between Isaac and his step-brother Ishmael, the father of the Arabs, they co-operated in the burial of Abraham.
7. Genesis 25:26 - Isaac was 60 when the twins Jacob and Esau were born. He prospered being blessed with cattle and became very wealthy. His household increased so much that he became the envy of the land.

Picture of map of Gerar



8. Genesis 26:1-6 - Unlike his nomadic father, Isaac dwelt at Gerar

Picture of map of Beersheba



and Beersheba.

9. Genesis 35:29 - Isaac eventually died at the age of 180 having lived the longest of the three great patriarchs, being buried by his sons Esau and Jacob.

Lessons from Isaac's life:

1. Genesis 17:16 – ***We are the promised children of God.*** As Isaac was the promised seed so we are the promised children of God.
2. Genesis 17:17-19 – ***Spiritual birth is miraculous.*** As Isaac's birth was a miraculous, so our sinful state makes our birth into God's family miraculous.
3. Genesis 22:1-2 – ***Our lives must be characterized by submissive obedience and sacrificial living.*** As Isaac submitted to Abraham's orders to bear the wood and become the sacrifice, so our lives must be characterized by submissive obedience and sacrificial living.
4. Genesis 22:5-12 – ***We must consider our lives disposable.*** As Isaac was obedient to his father unto death so we should consider our lives as disposable if God so wills it.
5. Genesis 22:13 – ***We need a substitutionary sacrifice.*** As a ram was substituted for Isaac so the Perfect Lamb was substituted for us.

6. Genesis 23:1 – ***We must place God’s family above other human relations.*** As Isaac’s mother died after his obedience and he took Rebekah, so our affections for our families should be crucified and replaced with God’s assigned family.
7. Genesis 24 – ***Bigotry has no place in God’s kingdom.*** As he took Rebekah, though she was from a foreign land, we must recognize that there is no longer room for bigotry in God’s kingdom.
8. Genesis 24:53 – ***Investment comes before relationship.*** As Rebekah acquired silver and gold before marrying Isaac so we should be willing to invest ourselves in others before expecting a relationship to ensue.
9. Genesis 24:63-67 - ***Evangelism must be proactive.*** As Isaac went out and brought Rebekah into his mother's tent so we should be proactive in reaching out to others and bringing them into God's family.
10. Genesis 25:5; Romans 8:16-17 – ***Through Christ we are heirs of God.*** As Abraham gave all things to Isaac, God has given Christ the first place as the first born rightful heir to the throne and through Christ, we receive all things.
11. Genesis 26:3-5; Romans 2:28-29; 9:6-8 – ***God wants a relationship with us.*** As God confirmed the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac so He is will to confirm it with us.

Lessons in submissive love:

True submissive and sacrificial love is demonstrated in the Son of God, of whom Isaac was a type.

1. Galatians 3:16 - ***Jesus Christ is the promised seed.***
2. Matthew 1:18-25 - ***Jesus Christ's birth was miraculous,*** being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25).
3. John 3:16; Romans 8:32 - ***God spared not His only Son.*** Jesus died on His Mt. Moriah.
4. Philippians 2:5-8 - ***Jesus was obedient unto death.***
5. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - ***Christ's death was substitutionary for us.***
6. Genesis 23:1-2; Romans 9:31-33 After the incident of the ram, Sarah (A type of Israel) died. After the death of Christ, ***Israel was set aside (but only for a time).***
7. Ephesians 6:12 – Like Abraham’s servant, ***the Holy Spirit is sent out into the world*** to seek out the Church. The Church responds even though she is in the devil's world.
8. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 – ***We must seek to acquire a dowry.*** Usually the dowry comes from the woman’s father. In Rebekah’s case her family did not provide one for her. Her groom’s father had to give it to her. Before the marriage with Christ the bridegroom, the Church acquires gold, silver and precious stones. But the empowerment to acquire these treasures comes from the Father through the Holy Spirit.
9. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 14:1-3 - ***Christ will meet the Church in the air*** and take her to His Father's house.
10. Daniel 12:1 - After Christ’s marriage to the Church, ***another period will start where Israel is used by God.***
11. Ephesians 1:22; Hebrews 1:2 - ***God has given all things to Christ.***
12. Romans 9:8 - ***Jesus Christ's spiritual children are the children of promise.***