

LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH

Sermon Eight – “A Portrait of Christ In the Old Testament”

Text: Hebrews 11:17-19; Genesis 22

INTRODUCTION: In our last message in this series about faith we saw that God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, but they had to wait twenty-five years before the promise was fulfilled. Despite some failures on their part along the way, Abraham and Sarah believed God and He rewarded their faith (Genesis 21:1-5). God tested their faith. He will test our faith. They understood the meaning of “The Testing of Your Faith.” In our last message by that same title we saw:

- I. THE ORDER OF FAITH (Genesis 22:1-2)
 - A. Most Christians have great confidence in their faith until it is tested.
 - B. Expect your faith to be tested (James 1:1-2; I Peter 1:7; 4:17).
- II. THE OBEDIENCE IN FAITH (Genesis 22:3-8)
 - A. Obedience is the true test of great faith.
 - B. Abraham obeyed God when he did not know where, when, how, or why (Hebrews 11:8-19).
- III. THE OPERATION OF FAITH (Genesis 22:9-13)
 - A. Abraham went where God told him (Genesis 22:9-13).
 - B. Faith rests upon God’s promises and God’s faithfulness (I Thessalonians 5:24) not God’s explanations.
- IV. THE OUTCOME OF FAITH (Genesis 22:14-18; Hebrews 6:12; 10:36)
 - A. Faith gives us a new approval (Genesis 22:12).
 - B. Faith gives us a new awareness (Genesis 22:14).
 - C. Faith gives us a new assurance (Genesis 22:18).

The Bible is a book about God’s eternal redemptive purpose in the Person of Jesus Christ (Psalm 40:7-8; Ephesians 3:11). There is one hero—Jesus Christ, one villain—Satan, one theme—the love of God in providing salvation to man through Jesus Christ, and one purpose—the ultimate glorification of God.

I. A PORTRAIT OF CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. A Special Person.

1. Isaac is a Picture of Jesus Christ.
 - a. His miracle birth was prophesied (Genesis 18:9; compare with Isaiah 7:14).
 - b. His birthday was preset (Genesis 18:21; compare with Galatians 4:4).
 - c. Isaac's name was divinely given (Genesis 17:19; see Matthew 1:21).
 - d. Isaac is loved of his father (Genesis 22:2; Matthew 3:16; John 3:16; 5:20).
 - e. He was offered as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:2; look at John 3:16).
 - f. Isaac was raised from the dead (Genesis 22:4; see Hebrews 11:19).
 - i. In Abraham's mind Isaac was figuratively dead for three days.
 - ii. Abraham received him back in a figurative way (Hebrews 11:19).

B. A Specific Place (Genesis 22:2, 4).

1. Mt. Moriah means "*foreseen of the Lord*".
2. Just think, God selected one galaxy out of over 100 million galaxies in the universe, the galaxy of the Milky Way.
3. God finds one sun and around that sun orbits a number of planets.
4. God selected one planet – earth (Psalm 24:1).
5. God takes one land, the land of Israel, and called that land, my land.
6. God selected one city, Jerusalem, and called that city, my holy city.
7. God took that one hill, Mt. Moriah and called that hill, my holy hill.
 - a. Out of the whole universe God chose one hill that He called a holy hill.
 - b. Psalm 2:6; 3:4; 15:1; 99:9.
8. Mt. Moriah became the focal point of the entire universe. Why?
 - a. Because one day Jesus Christ would there give His body and pour out His life's blood as a sacrifice and substitute for lost sinners.
 - b. Luke 23:33.

C. A Specific Purpose (Genesis 22:2).

1. The offering of Isaac would picture the suffering of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary (Genesis 22:4-8; Matthew 27:45-50).
2. Isaac was a type or picture of Christ to be substituted as the only sacrifice for our sins.
 - a. Father and Son came to a place where no one else could go (dark Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36-46).
 - b. Jesus told His disciples they could not go.
3. Think of Abraham and Isaac together.
 - a. Isaac sees the fire, the wood, and the knife.
 - b. He reads the anguished look upon his father's face.

- c. He is going up to the place of sacrifice, but there is no lamb to sacrifice.
 - d. Isaac asked the question: *"Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* (Genesis 22:8).
4. Isaac submitted himself to Abraham.
- a. Abraham was an old man.
 - b. Isaac was a young, strong, strapping man.
 - c. Jesus submitted Himself to God the Father (Matthew 27:39-42; John 10:17-18).

CONCLUSION: The ram became a substitute for Isaac. The Lord Jesus Christ became the substitute for us. God spared Abraham's son, but God did not spare His only Son (Romans 8:32). God sacrificed Himself for us (John 1:29, 33). *Jehova-Jireh = God will provide Himself a Lamb.* Do you need to be saved? Christian friend, do you afresh and anew see what Jesus did for us?