

On the Beginning

25. ISAAC OFFERED NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 22

Some time after the birth of Isaac (Genesis 21), which indicated God's power and willingness to keep His great promise to Abraham, the faith of the patriarch was sorely tried (Genesis 22). The word for "*tempt*" in Genesis 22:1 is the Hebrew term that means to test or try. James 1:13-14 says that God *never* tempts a man by soliciting him to sin. James 1:2-4 indicates that God *does* tempt us in another way. Both passages in James 1 use forms of a Greek word that corresponds to the Hebrew word for test or try. God was *testing* Abraham in Genesis 22.

1. Mount **Moriah**.

God called Abraham (vs. 1-2), and told him to offer Isaac as "*a burnt-offering*" on a mountain He would show him in "*the land of Moriah*." The name "Moriah" is very interesting, especially as it relates to this story, and (believe it or not) it is based on the same Hebrew words as "Jehovah-jireh" in verse 14. The Hebrew words are "Jehovah" (shortened to "iah" in Moriah) and the verb for "to see." That verb is also used (as in verse 8) to mean "provide" in the sense of "see to it." So both Moriah and Jehovah-jireh mean "the LORD will provide" or "the LORD sees" (Look again at Genesis 22:14) Another interesting thing has to do with the fact that we know where Mount Moriah is! II Chronicles 3:1 records that . . .

" . . .Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite."

The story behind the selection of this site for the Temple is also very interesting, and is found in I Chronicles 21. Not only was Moriah the location of the Temple built more than 800 years after Abraham's testing, but also it was in those hills that Calvary was located, where Jesus died and rose again more than a thousand years after Solomon's Temple was constructed! Abraham was to offer up his son in the same area where God later sacrificed His Son!

2. Abraham **Obeded**.

It was an awful and perplexing command, but it was clearly from God! See in verses 3-6 how obedient he was! The LORD never sanctioned, much less commanded, human sacrifice (See Jeremiah 19:5). What could all of this mean? Hebrews 11:17-19 and Genesis 22:5 indicate that Abraham thought that God was going to raise Isaac after he was sacrificed. Remember how much depended on Isaac growing up and begetting sons himself! Although the situation was confusing, Abraham did the right thing; he obeyed God and he trusted God. This is how we all should behave when we are being tested.

3. The **Lamb**.

In verses 7 and 8, we read a question and an answer which further connect this story with the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. Isaac asks his father,

"Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham replies,

“God will provide himself a lamb . . .”

In a way, the patriarch was pronouncing a prophecy. Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He died as a sacrifice to pay for our sins.

4. Abraham **Passed** the Test.

In verses 9-12 we learn that Abraham passed the test God gave him. He loved God even more than the son God had given him. He obeyed God under the most trying circumstances. Isaac also was obedient, even unto death, to the wishes of his father. See in verse 9 how Isaac submitted to his aged father, now well over a century old. He reminds us of Christ in this submission to his father (Philippians 2:8).

5. That **Place**.

From this chapter, the Bible begins talking about the Place, which really means Calvary. Abraham called it Jehovah-jireh, and said, *“In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen”* (vs. 13-18). Follow these Biblical references to that place:

Genesis 22:3-4, 14; Exodus 15:17; Deuteronomy 12:5,11,14,26; 16:1-2, 11, 16; I Chronicles 21:22-25; II Chronicles 3:1, 6:20-27; Ezra 5:15; Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33; John 19:17,20,41.

