

“Christ In The Old Testament”

Acts 7:8/Genesis 22:1-19

Message by Michael Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To examine how Abraham responded to the biggest test of his life. To recognize God never tempts us to do evil, but He does test us in order to develop our character and to help us grow spiritually. To realize Abraham’s nearly sacrificing Isaac on the altar was a foreshadow (or type) of what God the Father would ultimately have to do with His only begotten Son Jesus!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Stephen takes the Jewish religious leaders back to their roots (Acts 7:1-8)

1. To what major covenant in Jewish history is circumcision the sign of (See **Acts 7:8a**)? What two promises go along with this covenant? (See **Gen. 12:1-3; 15:5-6; 17:8-9**) There is a positive and negative aspect to circumcision, what are they? What can the Jew learn about everyday life from this picture? Do you still wrestle with the flesh? How can you cut the flesh off and live for God today? What are some of the positive medical results from physical circumcision?

2. In our previous lesson, we learned that Old Testament circumcision is a type. A “type” is an Old Testament foreshadow of something to be fulfilled in the New Testament. How do we see the Old Testament type of circumcision being fulfilled in **Col. 2:11-14**? At what moment does circumcision of the heart take place? How long do the effects last for?

3. As we come to **verse 8b**, we find that, “...Isaac begot Jacob and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.” How long did Abraham and Sarah have to wait for God’s promise to them to be fulfilled? Why did God make them wait so long? How old were they at the time? (See **Gen. 17:17**) Once Isaac was born, he was the critical link to the line in which the Messiah would be born. (See **Gen. 12:1-3**) What do we know about Isaac historically as a person? (See Bible Dictionary) What is the most famous story in Isaac’s life? Why?

Part II: God’s troubling command to Abraham (Gen. 22:1-8)

1. At this time, Abraham had two sons: Ishmael (whose mother was the Egyptian maidservant Hagar), and Isaac (who was the child of promise to Abraham and Sarah). Before the birth of Isaac, Abram and Sarai had become impatient in waiting for God to fulfill His promise to them, so they tried to help God by doing it their way with Sarai’s maidservant Hagar. The result was Ishmael and many headaches for the Hebrew people. How is the birth of Ishmael still negatively affecting the descendants of Abraham and Isaac today? Have you ever run into trouble when you chose to help God instead of waiting for Him? If so, how?

2. What did Sarah have done to Ishmael and Hagar in **Gen. 21:8-13**? How did this affect Abraham? What was God's response to Abraham's heartache (**vv. 12-13**)? Why was it so important for Ishmael to leave once Isaac was there?

3. **Genesis 22:1** begins with the words "*after these things.*" After what things? Once Ishmael and Hagar departed, Abraham had only one son left with him, the child of promise. What did God do to Abraham as we come to **Gen. 22**? What is the difference between being tested and being tempted (See **Jam. 1:13-15**)?

4. What unthinkable command did God give to Abraham in **verse 2**? Why would this command rattle any parent? Notice the words, "*your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love.*" How did God use these words to impress upon the reader the impact of the moment? Is human sacrifice something God approves of? (See **Deut. 12:30-32; Lev. 20:1-2**) Why do you think God commanded Abraham to sacrifice "*his only begotten son*" as a burnt offering in the land of Moriah?

5. What major world city is in the land of Moriah today? What historical structure was located on Mount Moriah? (See **2 Chron. 3:1**) When was the Jewish temple built and by whom? What structures sit on the site today? From what world religion are they?

6. How did Abraham respond to the horrifying command from God in **verse 3**? Why do you think Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and split the wood himself? Have you ever been put in a position where you had to choose between God and someone you love? How did it affect you? Whom did you ultimately choose?

7. The journey north from Beersheba was approximately 50 miles and took three days. What thoughts do you think were running through Abraham's mind as he travelled? Do you think Isaac had any idea of what was about to happen?

8. Why do you think Abraham had his servants remain behind with the donkey (**vs. 5**)? According to **verse 5**, what did Abraham consider the act he was about to do? Why? How would you define the word “*worship*?” How do we see the great faith of Abraham in action in **verse 5**?

9. What can we learn about Isaac’s age from **verses 6 & 12**? In **verse 6**, the wood was laid on Isaac; he was to carry it to his death. Who else would later carry wood to this same mountain and to His death? (See **John 19:17-42**)

10. What emotions do you think Abraham experienced as he watched Isaac carrying the wood up Mount Moriah (**vs. 6**)? What two instruments of death did Abraham carry? What was troubling Isaac as he walked along the trail towards Mount Moriah (**vs. 7**)? How did Abraham respond to Isaac’s concern (**vs. 8**)? Do you think Abraham believed from the bottom of his heart that God would provide a substitute?

Part III: Abraham’s faith and love for God confirmed (Gen. 22:9-19)

1. What did Abraham do once he and his son arrived on top of Mount Moriah (**vs. 9**)? Was it unusual that Abraham would build an altar once he arrived atop Mount Moriah? Why or why not? What was unusual? Why do you think Isaac didn’t run or fight off his elderly father? Who else obeyed His Father’s will to the point of death? (See **Luke 22:42**)

2. Abraham was used to slaying animals, but he never dreamt he would be asked by God to slay his only begotten son. What do you think was going through Abraham’s mind as he raised the knife to slay his only begotten son (**vs. 10**)? Would Abraham have gone through with the act if he hadn’t been stopped? What stopped the imminent death of Isaac (**vs. 11**)? Why did the Angel call out Abraham’s name twice?

3. What command was given to Abraham in **verse 12**? Here the Angel of the LORD gives us a clue as to the reason for the test, what was it? What did Abraham see when he raised his head and lifted up his eyes? Was it just by chance that the animal was there, or was this God’s providence in action? The concept of “*a substitutionary atonement*” is introduced to us here in **verse 13**. What does “*the substitutionary atonement*” point to theologically?

4. What name did Abraham give to this very spot (**vs. 14**)? Notice that it was “*a ram*” that was provided, not “*the lamb*.” When would God provide “*the Lamb*?” (See **John 1:29b**) **Verse 14** says, “*In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.*” How was the promise, “*God will provide the Lamb*” ultimately fulfilled (**vs. 8**)? (See **John 8:56**)

5. Notice that we find the Abrahamic Covenant once again being renewed in **verses 15-18**. What new element is added to the covenant in **verse 17**? **Verse 18** says, “*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*” Who would ultimately be the Seed?

6. Did Abraham keep his promise to his servants (**vv. 5, 19**)? Where did Abraham and Isaac head to once they rejoined the servants? How long would Abraham and Isaac have to wait before God sent the ultimate Lamb of God to be sacrificed as the substitutionary atonement for our sins? (Hint: Search the dates online)

7. If you were asked to share the gospel message with someone today, how would you do it? (See **Rom. 3:23; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 3:16; Acts 16:31**)

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac all died in the faith, even though they only saw God’s promises partially fulfilled.
- Each of them lived in this world as pilgrims; they remained faithful to God as they looked ahead to their heavenly home.
- God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as innumerable as the sand on the seashore and the stars in the sky, but this promise must come through the line of Isaac.
- God tested Abraham’s faith by commanding him to travel to the land of Moriah (modern Jerusalem) and offer his one and only son Isaac on the altar as a burnt sacrifice.
- God never intended for Abraham to kill his son, the test was to demonstrate to Abraham that there was nothing more important in his life than his relationship with God.
- The Angel of the LORD stopped Abraham from killing Isaac, but several centuries later when God’s only begotten Son was on the altar (the cross), there was no one to shout stop.
- Jesus is “*the Lamb of God*” who died on the cross as the substitutionary atonement for our sins, only in Christ do we find forgiveness and new life in Him.