

**GENESIS 22**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 22 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our last study we saw Abraham and Abimelech make a covenant regarding a well in the land.

From there we saw the birth of Isaac, the son of promise.

Then we saw the separation or departure of Hagar and Ishmael because the son of promise and the son of the flesh cannot live together. Law and Grace cannot co-exist together.

Now, according to many Jewish scholars, they believe that some thirty years have passed from the end of Genesis chapter 21 to the opening up of Genesis chapter 22.

I think they are correct.

And yes, we do not know what happened during those thirty years, they are silent years. I believe it is during those years God was helping Abraham's faith to grow and it will mature, so much so that Abraham, knowing the promise of God, will obey the Lord and do something that would be the hardest thing to do. I guess you can say that this growth of Abraham's faith, as he is climbing the mountain of faith here in Genesis chapter 22, I believe he reaches the summit!

Let me share this story with you regarding faith. We are told,

Television interviewer and journalist Larry King describes three farmers who gather daily in a field during a horrible drought.

The men are down on their knees, looking upward, and praying the skies will open and pour forth a much-needed rain.

Unfortunately, the heavens are silent, and the petitioners become discouraged, but they continue to meet every morning to lift up their request to God.

One morning an uninvited stranger approaches and asks the men what they are doing.

They respond, ***“We’re praying for rain.”***

The newcomer looks at each of them and shakes his head, ***“No, I don’t think so.”***

The first farmer says, ***“Of course we’re praying. We are down on our knees pleading for rain. Look around; see the drought. We haven’t had rain in more than a year!”***

The outsider continues to nod his head and advises them their efforts will never work.

The second farmer jumps in and says, ***“We need the rain; we aren’t asking only for ourselves, but for our families and livestock.”***

The man listens, nods, and says he still isn’t impressed. ***“You’re wasting your time,”*** he says.

The third farmer can’t take any more, and in anger he says, ***“Okay, what would you do if you were in our shoes?”***

The visitor asks, ***“You really want to know?”***

The three landowners answer, ***“We really want to know! The future of our farmlands is at stake.”***

The guest announces, ***“I would have brought an umbrella!”***

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Exactly. True faith not only believes but then acts upon that belief!

And, as you will see in our study this evening, this is a powerful story that is going to be played out by another Father and Son down the road.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Genesis chapter 22, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

## **GENESIS 22**

### **VERSES 1-2**

Think about this for a minute. For Abraham and Sarah, life has been good to them, God has been good to them.

God blessed them with a son named Isaac and everything was beautiful for years, probably some thirty years as I have said.

And then we are told that God tested Abraham.

I don't know about you, but when I was in school, I hated those surprise tests. The reason being was I was not prepared. I should have been. I was in class. The teacher taught us what was going to be on the test. My problem was that I was not paying attention and thus, when the surprise test came, I was not ready!

Abraham was learning, he was growing, his faith was growing, but this test was going to surpass all that we could ever imagine.

And this one for Abraham far exceeds anything that I had to do.

And keep in mind this was not a test for God but for Abraham, to show Abraham where he was at in trusting the Lord.

It was not really a test to produce faith or grow faith but more of a test to reveal how the faith of Abraham has grown over the years.

Spurgeon put it like this in regard to this test, ***“I cannot imagine a greater test than that which the Lord applied to Abraham. The Jews usually say that Abraham was tried ten times. Surely on this occasion he was tried ten times in one.”***

But doesn't that happen in our own lives?

Of course it does. We too face tests like that in our lives.

You know how it goes. Things are going well and then, all of a sudden, here comes something out of the blue and you wonder what is going on.

You see, God does continue to stretch us, and He does show us where our faith has grown, He reveals to us our faith and that should be an encouragement to us!

I have had that happen many times over the years. At first, I was taken back by what was happening. Things were going so well, I could take a deep breath and then, all of a sudden, out of the blue it seemed, the test came!

And God was just using those things in my life to help me to grow, to help me to trust in Him more and more.

Here God tells Abraham to take his only son, Isaac, to Moriah, a specific mountain that He has picked out.

Now I thought Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael?

He did, but keep in mind that Ishmael was a son of the flesh.

Thus, God does not even acknowledge his son or sin; God does not even mention Ishmael, only Isaac, the son of promise!

The Lord does the same in our lives. He does not acknowledge our sin or boast about our sin, just as He showed here with Abraham.

And notice what God instructs Abraham to do with his beloved son. God instructs Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a burnt sacrifice and the Lord will specifically guide him to the spot that was located on Mount Moriah where this will take place.

Are you kidding me? How can God do something like that?

Can you imagine God instructing you to do something like that!

Let me say this right now, He is not going to instruct you to do that!

Please understand that what Abraham did was something completely unique in God's redemptive history, given for a specific purpose once-for-all fulfilled.

There is no way God would ever direct someone to do this same thing today.

And, as we will see, God did not want this kind of sacrifice from Abraham. Yes, it was a test of his faith, but God was doing something else here as well and we will see that in our study this evening.

Several years back there was a columnist for the L.A. Times who was discussing this incident in the Bible with his readers, and he said that if God told him to do something like that, he would have told God to mind His own business!

That is the response of the world but as Christians, it should not be our response.

God may and He probably will tell us to do something that may be difficult for us to do, and we may respond by telling Him, "***Mind Your own business!***"

Now we may not use those words, we are more spiritual than that and we make excuses why we can't or why we won't do what God wants us to do. You see, our actions are speaking loudly about how we feel. Let us not excuses, let us walk by faith and obey the Lord!

Now regarding this incident, like I have said, God is not going to instruct us to do something like this today, God was using this for a specific purpose.

But what if God speaks to your son or daughter and tells them that they are to be missionaries in Africa or Iran, would you let them go?

Or what if God has called you to go somewhere that may be dangerous, would you go?

That is a difficult question for many to answer but the reality is, if God has called them, if God called you, can we trust that the Lord will see them through, see us through?

We need to because wherever the Lord calls, it is the safest place to be, in obedience to His direction!

Also, in this verse is the first mention of the word “love” in the Scriptures and it is associated with a father’s love for his son and the sacrificial offering of that son.

Does that sound familiar?

It should, because in John 3:16-17 Jesus said, “**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**”

Abraham and Isaac are acting out what God the Father and God the Son would do some 2,000 years down the road at that very spot on Mount Moriah – we call it Calvary!

In fact, the Hebrew word that is translated “offer” is *ALAW* and that words means “*to lift up.*”

Just as our Lord was lifted up on the cross of Calvary, we see this instruction given to Abraham to lift up his son on Mount Moriah!

Now that is a pretty big request that God gave to Abraham. He waited over 25 years to have a son with Sarah and now God is asking him to sacrifice Isaac!

How do you think he will respond? Let’s read on and see!

VERSE 3

Did you notice that there was not the slightest bit of hesitation on the part of Abraham.

All we are told is that the next morning he gets up, gets the wood for the sacrifice, gets two of his men and the sacrifice – Isaac, and they journey out to Moriah.

From Beersheba to Moriah is about 50 miles and it will take them three days to get there.

Now do you think Abraham understood all that was going on here?

Not at all but he trusted in the Lord and His promises to him and thus he was able to walk by faith.

It is as the Lord said in Isaiah 55:8-9, **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’”**

When we can trust in the Lord, we then can trust in His promises to us! We may not understand the details of what God is doing, but we are to trust Him!

Listen to what Paul wrote about this incident with Abraham and Isaac in Hebrews 11:17-19, **“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”**

That is faith. He is basically thinking, *“If God wants me to sacrifice Isaac, then it is okay but then He will have to work out the details for giving him all these descendants through Isaac since he has no children yet. I guess God will have to raise him from the dead!”*

In those thirty years that passed, the faith of Abraham has grown. Not perfect faith, but it has grown!

It is as Spurgeon put it, *“But there is not a word of argument; not one solitary question that even looks like hesitation. ‘God is God,’ he seems to say, and it is not for me to ask him why, or seek a reason for his bidding. He has said it: ‘I will do it.’”*

What an important lesson for us to learn. That when God calls us to do something, we step forward and do it!

#### VERSES 4-8

Here in Genesis 22:5 we see the first use of the word **“worship”** in the Scriptures or *SHACHAH*, (shaw-khaw’) in Hebrew and it is associated with sacrifice.

When we think of worship we may think of joyful praise, but that is not what is going on here and that is not always the case.

The word means to bow down or prostrate oneself.

Paul, in Romans 12:1 tells us, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service [spiritual worship].”**

You see, worshiping the Lord speaks of giving our life to Him, to be placed on the altar of sacrifice for His use.

That is what we are seeing here in Genesis, sacrifice is a form of worship, the sacrifice of our lives!

Also note that Abraham and Isaac will go up the mountain and Abraham tells these two men who accompanied them that they both will come back down. That is faith.



How was God going to do that? Abraham did not know how God would do it, but if Isaac was sacrificed then God would have to raise him from the dead to fulfill His promise to Abraham and his descendants as we were told in Genesis 21:12, **“But God said to Abraham, ‘Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.’”**

Thus, this was God’s problem and Abraham believed that what God had promised him He was more than able to bring to pass!

Now some of you may be thinking that I am stretching this idea that Abraham believed that God would have to raise Isaac from the dead, but I am not.

Remember what we read in Hebrews 11:17-19, that is what Paul is telling us regarding what Abraham believed. God could do it; God was able even though no one was ever raised from the dead at this point in the Bible!

Now in Genesis 22:5 we see the word **“lad”** used for Isaac. And it is out of that that we get our Sunday School pictures where Isaac was a young boy, maybe 10 years old or so, but that is not true.

The word used for **“lad”** can speak of someone who is thirty-years old, and I believe he was 33 years old at this point in his life and I will explain why in a minute!

When Isaac asks his dad where the sacrifice is, Abraham says that ***“God will provide Himself”*** as a sacrifice. The word ***“for”*** should not be there!

In other words, God will be that sacrifice and 2,000 years later, as John the Baptist sees Jesus coming, he says, **“. . . ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”** John 1:29.

What a coincidence! Not at all!

God was allowing Abraham to act out what would take place, kind of a sneak preview of what another Father would do in the sacrifice of His only begotten Son!

You might say the coming attractions!

Thus, I believe that Isaac was the same age as Jesus to fit the type, to fit the picture, 33 years old when these events took place on Mount Moriah!

Also, Isaac carried the wood just as Jesus carried the cross!

### VERSE 9

Keep in mind the age difference between the two of them.

Isaac could have overpowered his dad, ran way, but no, he laid down his life willingly as a sacrifice!

I think about my sons. Yes, when they were ten, I could overpower them. Now, today, there is no way I could force them to do something that they did not want to do. They are stronger, younger, more powerful than me and that is the case here with Isaac. He was stronger, much stronger than his dad.

But Isaac, he laid down on that wood just as Jesus would do as He freely gave His life and laid down upon that wooden cross!

### VERSES 10-14

How was Abraham willing to go through with this? I mean, he was going to sacrifice his son, the son of promise!

Abraham was willing to go through with this because he trusted in the Lord and His promises to Him. He knew that God would have to raise Isaac from the dead if he was sacrificed as I have said.

And the Angel of the **LORD** now steps in and I believe this is the pre-incarnate Jesus. And He speaks to Abraham and tells him to stop, not to go through with it. You see, he has passed the test!

This was the ultimate demonstration of love that we see here, love and obedience to the Lord or faith in action we might say! This is how much the faith of Abraham has grown over the years!

Now why was a ram offered as a sacrifice here instead of a lamb?

I believe that God is showing us that the promise will not be fulfilled until Jesus fulfills it. It is as Peter said, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** Acts 4:12.

Did you notice that Abraham did not call the place, ***“Hey, I passed the test!”*** Or ***“Agony hill!”*** Not even, ***“I did it!”***

But he called the place ***Yahweh Jireh***, or The **LORD** will provide. You see, Yahweh is speaking of the all-sufficient One. He is the great ***“I AM”*** not ***“I was”*** or ***“I will be”*** but He is to us what we need Him to be in our life – He is our all sufficient One, he is Yahweh Elohim!

Thus, in the mountain of the Lord He provided a sacrifice for Abraham, and He will provide Himself as a sacrifice some 2,000 years down the road.

In fact, Moses tells us here that this Mount Moriah is still called Yahweh Jireh in his day and as I have said, it is here that the Lord has provided atonement for our sins, on this very mountain and Abraham and Isaac are acting this out for us.

I want to share with you some of the Old Testament names of God and how He meets us where we are. They are,

- *El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)*
- *El Elyon (The Most High God)*
- *Yahweh Nissi (The Lord My Banner)*
- *Yahweh Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)*
- *Yahweh Rapha (The Lord That Heals)*
- *Yahweh Shammah (The Lord is There)*
- *Yahweh Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)*
- *Yahweh Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)*
- *Yahweh Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)*
- *Yahweh Shalom (The Lord is Peace)*
- *Yahweh Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)*

Our God meets all our needs, we just need to listen and obey!

#### VERSES 15-19

God is not only going to bless Abraham and his descendants, but all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

How can that be?

Because, as we have read this evening, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”** John 3:16-17.

You see, from the seed of the woman, from the descendants of Abraham, from the nation of Israel, from the tribe of Judah, the Messiah would come and has come, and all the nations of the world can be blessed if they receive Him!

Now some read what is spoken of here in Genesis 22:18 that this seed is speaking of Israel, the Jewish people. Not at all.

Paul makes it clear to us in Galatians 3:16 that this seed is a reference to Jesus Christ. He wrote, **“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ.”**

You see, not the Jewish people but one Jewish man, Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who came to take away the sins of the world! **“Seed”** is singular and, like I have said, it is speaking of Jesus!

Now we are told that Abraham came down from this mountain, but we are not told that Isaac came down, how come?

Did Isaac come down with Abraham?

I believe he did, but the Holy Spirit is editing this out for a specific reason, and we will deal with that more in that in a few minutes.

#### VERSES 20-24

Why is this lineage even mentioned here?

Why do we need to know the family of Nahor, what role do they play in this story?

There is one reason this is listed for us and that is because of a girl named Rebekah who will become the wife of Isaac!

I was going to move on into Genesis chapter 23 this evening, but I want to spend the rest of our time looking at how what was done here in Genesis chapter 22 is a clear picture of what our Lord and Savior has done for us!

In other words, Abraham is giving to us a sneak preview of the coming attraction and we will see that as we go through this story. And it is amazing how this picture comes to life. I pray you are blessed as we go through this story.

Remember what David said in Psalm 40:7, “**Then I said, ‘Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.’**”

In other words, out of the Old Testament are pictures, types of Jesus for us. If you read the Bible and don’t see Jesus, then you are not reading the Bible, you are not looking because He is throughout the Scriptures!

In fact, from Genesis through the book of Revelation is the story of God’s love for sinful man and His redemption of us!

Remember what Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders in John 5:39-40, “**You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**”

It is all about Jesus but many refuse to come to Him, to see that the Bible is speaking of Jesus to us!

Also, in John 8:56-59, as Jesus is speaking to the Jewish religious leaders and tells them, **“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.’ Then the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”**

Please don't miss the point that Jesus is making here, as many do. He is saying that He is the great **“I AM”** of Exodus chapter 3. He is the voice from the burning bush. He is God! Thus, the Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Him for they would not believe that He is God!

There is another interesting point here and that is when Jesus said, **“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”** John 8:56.

When did Abraham see this day of salvation that Jesus was speaking of, this Good News, the Gospel message?

I believe it is here in Genesis chapter 22 as Abraham and Isaac are acting out the Gospel message some 2,000 years before it happens!

Now you may see this as being far-fetched but listen closely to how the Holy Spirit paints this picture for us.

Point number one we see that Abraham is told in Genesis 22:2 that he should **“... Take now your son, your only son Isaac . . .”**

I find this interesting because Abraham had two sons. He had Ishmael, born through Hagar the maidservant of Sarah. And then through Sarah Isaac was born.

Now, as we have seen in our study through Genesis, Ishmael was not the son of promise, but the son of the flesh and God does not recognize the works of our flesh and thus, He does not recognize Ishmael. He wants Abraham to take his “**only son**”! (Genesis 22:2)

He only recognizes Isaac, the son of promise, Abraham’s only son in God’s eyes!

In a sense God has two sons. The first was Adam and because of his sin the human race would be contaminated with sin and death.

Thus, in a sense he is a son of the flesh, not recognized to bring about salvation.

The other Son is Jesus or God becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

Thus, Jesus tells us in John 3:16-17, “**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**”

You see, Abraham is a type of God the Father willing to sacrifice his only son, to shed his blood so that sin may be covered just as God the Father was willing to sacrifice His Son, to shed His blood so that sins of the world may be forgiven, cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

Point number two is once again given to us in Genesis 22:2 where we see that this will take place in the “**land of Moriah**” or Mount Moriah!

God instructed Abraham that this sacrifice was to take place on a specific mountain; he was not just to do it anywhere he wanted.

The place was Mount Moriah and on this range of mountains the Temple would stand one day and also, across from the Temple on this same mountain range is a place we know as Calvary or Golgotha in Hebrew.



It is known as the place of the skull, and I believe God instructed Abraham to take Isaac to the place where Jesus would be crucified some 2,000 years later!

Not a coincidence, God is orchestrating these events to fit the picture of what would take place.

In fact, Moriah means, “*foreseen of Yahweh*” and thus, God knew where and when this would take place and He wanted Abraham and Isaac to act this out to give us this picture!

God not only foresaw the sin of man, but He also foresaw the redemption of man through His finished work on the cross of Calvary!

The third point is that Isaac was to be offered there as “**a burnt offering**” as we see in Genesis 22:2.

As we have seen, the Hebrew word for “**offer**” is ALAH, (aw-law’) and it speaks of lifting up.

Thus, God is instructing Abraham to lift up Isaac as a sacrifice.

I find that interesting because Jesus said in John 12:32, “**And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**And I, if and when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw and attract all men [Gentiles as well as Jews] to Myself.**”

Just as Isaac was to be lifted up as a sacrifice, Jesus would be literally lifted up as He was crucified on the cross of Calvary!

The fourth point is that this was a three-day journey or as we see in Genesis 22:4, **“Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.”**

Again, notice how his faith had grown. God told him to go and offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice and early in the morning he got up and heads towards the mountains of Moriah, which is about 50 miles away from Beersheba or about a 3-day journey.

Now, how does that relate to Jesus and what He has done?

I believe that Abraham started out on this journey and in his mind, Isaac was already dead.

In a sense, *“Dead man walking!”*

And, as we will see, it is on that third day that the life of Isaac is spared or that Isaac was raised up on the third day!

Now, how long was Jesus dead, how long was He in the tomb?

He was in the tomb three days and three nights!

Jesus said in Matthew 12:40, **“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

And that is exactly what transpired, Jesus rose from the grave on that third day, that Sunday morning!

The fifth point is found in Genesis 22:6 where we see that Isaac carried the wood for this sacrifice, **“So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son . . .”**

Isn't this amazing. Here we see the wood for the sacrifice laid upon the back of Isaac and he carried the wood to the spot where he would be sacrificed.

That should also remind us of what Jesus did. He carried the cross of wood to the place He was going to be crucified!

In John 19:12-18 we are told, **“From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, ‘If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.’ When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, ‘Behold your King!’ But they cried out, ‘Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar!’ Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.”**

Thus, as Isaac carried the wood upon his shoulders to the place he was to be sacrificed, so too did our Lord carry the cross or the cross beam to Calvary!

The sixth point is that the judgment of God is in the father’s hand as Abraham had all the implements for this sacrifice of his son. We are told in Genesis 22:6, **“... and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.”**

As they traveled up to Mount Moriah, Abraham took the fire, which speaks of judgment and the knife, which speaks of the execution of judgment and of sacrifice.

It is a picture of what God the Father would do, pouring out the wrath of God upon Jesus, the wrath that was due us, but Jesus took it upon Himself as He bore the sins of the world!

The seventh point is found in Genesis 22:8 where we see that God will provide himself as the sacrifice or as He said, “... ‘My son, God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering. . . .’”

As they are getting closer to the spot of the sacrifice, Isaac is wondering where the sacrifice is. They have everything else they need but the sacrifice.

And Abraham makes a remarkable statement here, obviously inspired by the Holy Spirit. He says, “God will provide Himself” as the sacrifice!

He does not say, “God will provide for Himself the lamb,” the word “*for*” is not in there. It was added. But the clear point that is being made here is that God will provide *Himself as the Lamb!*

Remember when John the Baptist saw Jesus in John 1:29 and he said of Jesus, “... ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”

Do you see the picture that is being painted for us here in Genesis?

I believe it is very clear, God has provided Himself as the Sacrifice, He is the sacrificial lamb!

In Isaiah 53:4-7 we see how the Messiah is spoken of as we read, **“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”**

Again, He not only took our sins upon Himself, but He was the sacrificial lamb led to the slaughter!

In Revelation 5:6 we see Jesus portrayed once again as a sacrificial lamb only this time the sacrifice is completed.

Notice what we are told here, **“And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain . . .”**

Also, in I Peter 1:18-21 Peter tells us, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Yes, God has provided Himself as that sacrifice for our sins, once and for all they have been paid, as Peter tells us in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

The eighth point is that Isaac freely laid down his life and we see that in Genesis 22:9-10. We are told, **“Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”**

Like I have said, Isaac was probably 33 years old at this point, the same age as Jesus was when He freely laid down His life for us.

Thus, if Isaac wanted to leave, he could have overpowered his dad, he could have run away from his dad, but he didn't. He freely laid down his life as a sacrifice!

What a beautiful picture of Jesus and how He freely gave His life for us. He was not forced into it, but He laid down His life willingly.

That is what Jesus said in John 10:17-18, **“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”**

The ninth point is that Isaac laid on the wood, and we see in Genesis 22:9, **“... and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.”**

Abraham takes his son and places him on the altar, lays him on the wood.

That is also interesting because Jesus was placed upon the wooden cross; He laid down upon it and was nailed to it!

Jesus said in John 15:13, **“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”**

And Paul tells us in Romans 5:6-8, **“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

Now God never intended Abraham to sacrifice his son but was showing Abraham his faith, how it has grown and to illustrate for us what another Father was going to do by sacrificing His only begotten Son!

Thus, the angel of the Lord or Jesus prevents him from going through with this and Abraham sees a ram that is stuck in the thistle and offers this animal up as a sacrifice instead.

What does that mean to us today?

Simply, it is not by our sacrifices or our good works that we can be saved. It is only by the shed blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

Thus, a ram for Abraham and not a lamb because there is only one Lamb of God who can come and take away the sins of the world and in Abraham’s day it was still some 2,000 years down the road before the Messiah would come.

The Lamb of God was coming and has come, Jesus has paid in full the penalty for our sins!

The tenth and last point is told to us in Genesis 22:19, where we are told that Abraham came down from the mountain. **“So Abraham returned to his young men . . .”**

Here is an interesting point that many miss. It only says that Abraham came down from the mountain, where was Isaac? Where did Isaac go?

I believe Isaac was with Abraham, they both came down together, but the Holy Spirit edits that out for us to make the type, to paint the picture.

Keep in mind that Abraham is a picture of God the Father, Isaac is a picture of God the Son, but what about the Holy Spirit?

Hold on and I will show you!

In Genesis chapter 24 Sarah has died and Abraham is old, and Isaac is still not married yet!

So Abraham sends his servant, Eliezer according to Genesis 15:2, to go and find a wife for Isaac and Abraham tells him to go alone, don't take Isaac with him.

So Eliezer finds Rebekah and brings her back and the next time we see Isaac in the Scriptures is when he meets his bride, Rebekah.

How does that fit the picture of Christ?

When Jesus died and rose on the third day, after He was taken up into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father, the Father sent the Holy Spirit into the world to work.

Now, interestingly enough, the word used for Holy Spirit can mean ***“comforter”*** and the name **“Eliezer”** means comforter!

So just as Eliezer went out to look for a bride for Isaac, so too the Holy Spirit was sent to draw out a bride for Jesus, which is the church!



And when that last person gets saved, the Lord comes back for His bride, the church and we are gathered together to meet the Lord, our Bridegroom, in the air and then the judgment comes!

You see, Jesus doesn't return to the earth for His bride because the next time He comes to the earth it is for judgment at the end of the Tribulation Period and He comes then with His Bride, the church and after that the Kingdom Age is established.

Thus, just as Isaac was not seen again until he met his bride, we will not see Jesus again until He comes for His Bride, which I believe is getting closer!

Thus, the picture is completed. We have Abraham as a type of God the Father, Isaac as a type of God the Son and Eliezer as a type of God the Holy Spirit!

As I begin to close this evening, I hope you have seen that what Abraham, Isaac and Eliezer have done here in Genesis is just a foreshadow of what God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit will do, have done and are doing right now, bringing the Good News, the Gospel message to a lost and dying world.

You see, the Gospel is found here in Genesis chapter 22 and what was hidden in the Old Testament is opened up to us as we read the New Testament!

Bob Woods tells the story of a couple who took their son, 11, and daughter, 7, to Carlsbad Caverns.

As always, when the tour reached the deepest point in the cavern, the guide turned off all the lights to dramatize how completely dark and silent it is below the earth's surface.

The little girl, suddenly enveloped in utter darkness, was frightened and began to cry.

Immediately was heard the voice of her brother: "Don't cry. Somebody here knows how to turn on the lights."

In a real sense, that is the message of the gospel: light is available, even when darkness seems overwhelming.

- Bob Woods, Pulpit Digest

Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 15:1-4, it is the Gospel message, the Good News of Jesus Christ!

He wrote, **“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”**

Jesus was crucified on Calvary, which is on Mount Moriah; He was buried in a tomb for three days and three nights, and then arose triumphantly from the grave. And He is coming for His Bride, the church as right now the Holy Spirit is drawing out His Bride.

Here is the question. Have you trusted the Lamb of God to take away your sins and save you?

That is what this is all about, won't you make that commitment to Him today and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior, to forgive you of your sins and He will, and you will enter into everlasting life with Him!

That is Good News!

That is ***THE GOSPEL MESSAGE*** that was hidden in the Old Testament but comes bursting forth as clear as a bright shining day in the New Testament.

Let me share this with you to encourage you and show you that if you search for the Lord, He will reveal Himself to you.

We are told,

Lew Wallace set out to study the life of Christ, he was not a Christian.

In fact, writing a story such as Ben Hur was the farthest thing from his mind.

Wallace was antagonistic toward Christianity, and determined he would study the life of Christ so thoroughly, and then write so convincingly, that he would be able to kill the story of Christ.

He wanted to prove that Jesus, if He had lived, was not God, but merely a man, that He never rose from the dead, and that Christianity was a hoax.

So he studied.

This great and enormous subject drew him further and further into his research until the evidence overwhelmed him.

He dropped to his knees and cried out to Jesus to be his Savior and Lord.

Then, instead of writing a book to prove to the world that Jesus was not God, he wrote *Ben Hur*, to try to prove to the world that Jesus was God.

- Max Anders, *Jesus, Knowing Our Savior*, pp. 98-100

Make no mistake about it, the world can try to destroy Christ, but they will never succeed. I pray that you see His love for you and that you would surrender your life to Him if you don't know Him. And if you do know Him, that you would be filled with thanksgiving and praise unto Him.

Remember, and I know I have quoted these verses a lot tonight, but they are so important. These are the words of Jesus to us as He said, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”** John 3:16-17.

Won't you believe?

