

07/28/2024

"Jesus in Genesis"

Genesis 22:1-14

We have all heard the Scripture in Genesis 3:15, where God the Father speaks about God the Son, Jesus the Christ. However, I want to investigate a different passage, that being in chapter 22. This drama took place approximately 1,800 years before the birth of the Messiah!

Verse 1: "After these things..." After what things? After Abram had been promised an heir through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed and had his name changed to Abraham; After he had been called by the LORD to leave his home, family and safety of the protection of his family in Ur of the Chaldeans to travel to a land promised to him and his descendants; After Isaac had been born to Sarah when Abraham was just shy of 100 years old... "God tested Abraham" (*James 1:2-4*) and issues the prophetic mandate, that is 1) God calls and 2) the prophet answers "Here I am" 3) God gives a command and 4) The prophet rises and goes. Step 4 is the Hebrew word KUM (pronounced koom). This is OUR example for listening for God's voice and immediately obeying His call and command...

Verse 2: God says "take your son, your only son, Isaac whom you love" (a highly specific child, through whom the promises of God were to come!) and "go to the land of Moriah to a mountain I will show you" and "offer him as a burnt offering to me". For Abraham, the **"man of faith"**, his son is **already as good as dead on the 3 day journey** from Beer-sheba north to Mt. Moriah. **Question:** Was it a sin for God to command Abraham to sacrifice his son? [NO. If an authority figure (policeman) waves you through a red light, it is NOT against the law. God is the ultimate authority.] **Question:** What is God testing in Abraham? [Is there anything more important to him than doing the will of God.]

Verse 5: Abraham states "I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." **Question:** Does this represent a lie on Abraham's part? [NO, it is an expression of faith in God's promise and His ability to resurrect Isaac, if need be!] (*Hebrews 11:19*)

Verse 6: "Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac", who was an architype of Jesus (Jesus carried the patibulum of the cross)... Abraham, an architype of God the Father, "took in his hand the fire and the knife." (Both common symbols of judgement)... "So they went both of them together." (Just as God the Father and God the Son went to Calvary together, until God the Father turned His face away from His Son when all your sins... past, present and future, were laid on Jesus! *Matthew 27:46*)

Verse 7: Isaac asks “where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Verse 8: Abraham says “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”
(Moriah in Hebrew means “The LORD will provide” or Jehovah-Jireh)

Verse 9: Abraham (118-120 years old) builds a stone altar, lays on the wood and after binding Isaac (18-20 years old) hand and foot, lays him on the wood. **Question:** Could Isaac have fought off his father? If so, why didn't he? [YES, he could have; He didn't because *he* had great faith also and was willing to trust the LORD and his earthly father, even to the point of death! Are you?]

Verse 10: “Abraham took the knife to slaughter his son.” (ACTIONS speak louder than WORDS... Would your actions in this world be enough to convict you in a court of law for being a Christ-follower?)

Verse 11: “But the angel of the LORD (a Christophany: an appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ)... “called from heaven and said Abraham, Abraham” (Urgently Jesus calls, and Abraham IMMEDIATELY stops what he is doing and issues the prophet's response), “Here I am.”

Verse 12: “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him” (Another specific command)... “For now I know you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”
[Abraham passed God's test proving that there was NOTHING more important than obeying the LORD'S will, *at that time*... at other times, not so much.] (*Mark 10:17-23; Luke 9:23; Philippians 3:8*)

Verse 13: “And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, BEHIND him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. [God the Father, Who is insulted by these human's sins]... “And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering INSTEAD (*as a stand-in for*) and God the Son (Who would act as sacrifice for humanity's sins) were THE ONLY ONES AUTHORIZED TO ALLOW FOR THIS SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT, that became codified in Leviticus.]

Verse 14: “Abraham called the name of that place The LORD will provide”... [Mt. Moriah is where Jerusalem, the city of God, will eventually be built and where Golgotha will be. (See the map) (Notice “Gihon Spring”, this is possibly one of the original 4 rivers flowing out of the Garden of Eden and why some believe that the Garden was on the Jerusalem temple mount! The cataclysmic disruption of the earth during the flood makes it impossible to know for sure)... Abraham calls the place “Moriah” AFTER hearing God call it that earlier. Thus God is the LORD NOT man.]... “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” [God fore-ordained that He would provide His Son to die as a sacrifice for all humanity's sins on Mt. Moriah at Calvary. This verse then, is a Messianic prophesy. Notice on the map, that in the 1st century, Calvary was OUTSIDE the wall of the city. (*Leviticus 16:27*)

*** The Mountain of God: The Garden of Eden was located on the mountain of God. How do we know this? Because the 4 rivers to water the garden must flow DOWN HILL!
(*Genesis 2:10-14*).

On this mountain is where mankind had a face to face relationship with their Creator God.
(*Genesis 3:8*)

This is also where mankind chose to make their own decisions rather than submit to their loving Creator's will.
(*Genesis 3:1-6*)

The Mosaic law came as a result, not to ultimately deal with mankind's sin nature...
(*Hebrews 10:1-4*)

but as a "guardian" to lead and guide us until Jesus came and died for us to be justified by faith in Him.
(*Galatians 3:24*)

Eventually, Jesus would finally and fully deal with mankind's sin nature on the Mountain of God at Calvary, in the REALITY of God's plan...
(*Hebrews 10:11-14*)

instead of the SHADOW of God's plan that Abraham's test and the Mosaic law demonstrated.
(*Matthew 27:50-51*)

The REAL fulfillment of God's plan is when believers are brought BACK to the beginning, where we again, have a face to face relationship with our Creator Savior Helper (Triune) God. (*Revelation 21:1-4*)
(*Revelation 22:1-5*)

