

Isaac

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GENESIS 22:15-18

God is always the hero of the story, and He's certainly the hero of this story as well! Abraham knew God as the Great Promise Keeper, and in this encounter he receives a miraculous answer to his private prayers for Isaac.

Aren't we struck by Isaac's complete, submissive trust in his father? Even as the altar of wood is built and Isaac is bound and placed on the altar, we see no struggle against what's happening. It's a beautiful foreshadowing of another Son, Jesus Christ, who would "like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

Likewise, we witness Abraham's deep faith in God through his willingness to sacrifice this promised son. Though God called Abraham to a difficult task, Abraham is willing to obey because of his complete confidence in God's promises to him; he knew that somehow the Lord would provide. In His mercy, God does indeed provide a substitute for Isaac. The Lord opens Abraham's eyes to see the ram caught in a thicket by his horns. The blood of the animal substitute will take the place of the shed blood of the beloved Isaac.

Though Isaac didn't really understand what was going to happen to him as he approached the mountain of Moriah, Christ understood completely why he was going to the cross; to be sacrificed for our sin. For while God withheld Abraham's hand from killing his son Isaac; God did not withhold his hand when he allowed His only Son Jesus Christ

to die for our sin. "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand" (Isaiah 53:10).

This is very humbling to read and almost painful to know that God loved us this much; to not withhold His hand from sacrificing His only Son for sinners like you and me.

Both Abraham and Isaac are in the lineage of Christ and are commended for their abiding trust in God, as they both are listed among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau" (Hebrews 11:20-17).

Isaac would grow up to obediently follow the faith that his father Abraham exhibited. He had experienced God's saving provision on Mt. Moriah and it impacted his own faith journey until the day he died. Abraham and Isaac experienced God's supernatural provision and redemption from death. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance, we too are empowered to lift up our eyes and see God's provision in Christ. We have new life in Him.

PRAYER

Thank you Father for giving us your only Son on whom we can cast our sin and the cares of this world. May you be pleased to increase our faith as we are encouraged by the lives of Isaac and his father Abraham. Lift our eyes to you as we seek to imitate Christ. May we indeed be found faithful until He returns, or until we go to be with Him in heaven. Amen.



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