

Isaac & the Ram - Genesis 22 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

We have probably at one point in time made a promise to someone or had a promise made to us. We make little promises and big promises. Little kids promising to be best friends forever. Sometimes that works out, sometimes it doesn't. Someone moves away. As you grow up, your interests diverge from your friends and so you grow apart. Or maybe you or the other person did something to really wound the other person. We make little promises and big promises. We group up and get married, promising to love and cherish our spouse until death do us part. But something happens and maybe you or the other person breaks that promise. We make little promises and big promises. We break little promises and big promises. The fallout of a broken promise can range anywhere from hurt feelings to a shattered relationship.

Abraham was a man to whom God made a huge promise. God promised him that he would become a great nation and that all of the nations on earth would be blessed through him. Fifteen years later, God reminds him of this promise and that it would come through his son that would be born to Sarah. The problem was Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 90. Long past child bearing age. And yet, because God had proven himself in the past, they trusted. At the ripe old age of 91, Sarah has a son. Miraculous to say the least. Because this was the child they had always wanted, I'm sure they overzealously doted on him. Finally, God's promise would come true. Through Isaac, Abraham would become this great nation.

However, one day God speaks to Abraham and asks of him the unthinkable. God tells him to take his son, his only son Isaac, whom he loves... and sacrifice him as a burnt offering to God. The son he had waited so long for and that God had promised would make a great nation now wanted him dead? Surely he didn't hear that correctly. Yet, we see immediate obedience. The next day, Abraham cuts wood for the sacrifice and takes Isaac and two servants with him on a three day hike to a specific spot that God would show him. Three days of internal wrestling for Abraham knowing what God promised and what God was commanding him to do to his very own son.

After arriving, Isaac mentions that they have everything they need for the sacrifice but the lamb. Abraham's reply, "God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering." must have been agonizing as in his mind, Isaac was that lamb.

They make it to the destination. Abraham builds the altar, arranges the wood, then binds his son and places him on the wood. Nothing is mentioned about Isaac resisting or questioning his father, just obedience. Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead and thus still fulfill his promise. Abraham takes the knife and is about to kill his son when the angel of the Lord stops him. This had been a test to see if Abraham truly trusted God. Thing is, God already knew.. but Abraham didn't. God knew that Abraham would be obedient and that the seed of the woman, from Genesis chapter 3, would come through Abraham and Sarah. God kept his covenant promise to Abraham.

This passage is saturated with images that point us to Jesus.

- Mount Moriah is ultimately where Solomon's temple is built. We read that in 2 Chronicles 3:1. On the backside of this very hill is where Jesus is crucified for us.
- "Take your son, your only son, whom you love" is language that is very similar to what we see at Jesus' baptism where God declares, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."
- Also at Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist declares Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

- Just as Isaac had to carry the wood for the sacrifice, so did Jesus. Only Jesus didn't get a last minute reprieve.
- There is no questioning from Isaac. There was no questioning to the Father from Jesus either.
- Abraham, the father, has to sacrifice his son. God the Father had to sacrifice his only Son for us.

Abraham's statement in Genesis 22:8 was prophetic, "God will provide for himself a lamb." And He did. God provided for himself the lamb by offering himself as the Lamb! By offering himself, the head of the serpent is crushed and we are rescued from the curse that has plagued us for so long.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Kings 1	2 Kings 2	2 Kings 3	2 Kings 4	2 Kings 5	2 Kings 6	2 Kings 7

Reading from this past week's sermon: Genesis 22

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Exodus 17

Family Worship

Song - *He will Be*

<https://youtu.be/TmQOUvSo-4M?si=KDsazcqlJbxgLAKM>

Gospel Project

Unit: Jesus the Healer

Story: Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

Big Picture Question: Why Did Jesus perform miracles?

Answer: Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

Scripture: Luke 4

New City Catechism

Question 23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Answer: That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.

Verse: Acts 2:24

Genesis 22

- How does Abraham's willingness to offer his "only son, whom he loved" mirror God the Father's giving of His only Son, Jesus, for us?
- In what areas of my life am I holding back from surrendering my 'beloved son' or cherished things to God, even when He asks for total trust?
- What promise or promises from God in Scripture do you struggle to believe and why? What are some steps you can take to help you remind you of God's character as promise keeper?

Prayer

*Pray that God's offering of His only Son for us would lead us to lay anything we have on the altar in response.

*Pray for the Legends neighborhoods here in Eureka.