

Rapture Prequels

ABRAHAM & ISAAC

The story of Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac was one of the first Bible studies I ever heard. It was the first Bible study I heard that revealed to me the Bible is full with types and figures.

The episode on Mount Moriah foreshadows Calvary where God the Father did sacrifice His Son, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Genesis 22:2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Here, as nowhere else, you are shown God the Father's heart, Who the Scripture says in Romans 8:32, "spared not His own son." What God asked Abraham to do on Mount Moriah He would Himself do centuries later.

Genesis 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Abraham planned for the sacrifice and he did it early. Just so, Jesus was marked out for sacrifice from all eternity. He was "slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

Genesis 22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

Abraham and Isaac arrived at Mount Moriah "on the third day." But notice: Abraham left the day after God commanded him, and it took three days to get to Moriah, thus making a total of four days.

This corresponds perfectly to Exodus 12:3, where the Passover Lamb was to be kept and examined for four days before offering it. Likewise Jesus

Christ was examined for four days after He entered Jerusalem before being crucified.

Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

These two men witnessed Isaac carrying the wood up the mountain but what took place between him and his father they were not permitted to see.

Likewise at Calvary there were two men, the two thieves, but like all the spectators of that scene, they were not permitted to behold what transpired between the Father and the Son on heaven's altar - three hours of darkness concealing from every human eye the divine transaction of the payment of our sins.

Genesis 22:6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

Isaac was no toddler. He was a full grown man in his thirties, one who could have easily resisted the older Abraham. Instead he carried the wood and submitted willingly.

Jesus, carrying His cross down the Via Dolorosa, was in perfect, willful submission to His crucifixion. "Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God," was His glad cry to the Father.

"Fire" is the emblem of God's judgment upon sin. The fire of God's wrath against sin broke forth on Jesus as He hung upon the cross. There He was, as Isaiah says, "smitten of God" (Isaiah 53:4).

Genesis 22:7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

The verses literally read, "God will provide Himself the lamb." This tells us two things:

1. Only God could provide the appropriate Lamb.
2. The provision was to satisfy Himself.

If sacrifice for sin was ever to be found God Himself must provide it; nothing man can or could do could meet the divine requirements. And the offering was first and foremost for God - to satisfy His holiness.

Verses nine through fourteen describe the ram being offered up in Isaac's place. Jesus died in your place! You were already in the place of death, bound, unable to help yourself, with God's wrath against sin about to fall and consume you. But Jesus was provided to take your place. The wrath of God fell upon Him.

Hebrews 11:17-19 reads, "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."

From this you learn that Genesis twenty-two presents to us in type not only Jesus offered upon the altar, but Jesus risen from the dead! In Abraham's mind, Isaac was "dead" for three days - but he received him back alive. Jesus was three days and three nights in the earth - but He rose on the third day!

The first use of the word "love" in the Bible occurs here, in verse two, describing the love of Abraham for his son. You've seen that it is really a description of your heavenly Father's love for His only begotten son, Jesus. In offering His son your heavenly Father has proven His love for you.

In verse fourteen you read,

Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

The statement at the end, "in the mount of the Lord it shall be provided," is a prophecy. Just as God provided a ram, He would later provide Jesus as the once-for-all Lamb.

There is more than this. The place where Abraham offered up Isaac on Mount Moriah would later be the site of the Temple where offering was made for sin.

There is more even than this! Mount Moriah has several peaks. Just above the place that Abraham offered Isaac, the place where the Temple was located, is Calvary - the very place where Jesus was provided as the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

OK, so where is the prequel of the rapture???

Abraham left the donkey and the two young men at the foot of the hill as he and Isaac went up to the top of Moriah for the offering of his son. After the episode concludes with the substitution of the ram, verse nineteen lists those that then returned to Beersheba:

Genesis 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Where's Isaac? Obviously, Isaac also returned with Abraham and the two young men. But the Holy Spirit seems to remove him from the narrative.

In fact, you don't see Isaac again until two chapters later. In chapter twenty-four the father, Abraham, sends out his servant to secure a bride for his son.

Isaac is removed out of the record from the time he was offered until he is united with his bride.

Jesus has been removed since the time He was sacrificed. When will He return?

He will return when He is united with His bride, the church, at the rapture!!!

Mean time the Father's servant, the Holy Spirit, is searching-out the bride as the Gospel goes forth in the church age.

