

First Southern Baptist Church - January 29, 2020

Abraham Sacrifices Isaac - Genesis 22:1-19

Introduction

1. Isaac is not a toddler anymore - an adolescent
 - old enough to carry the wood, and endure the journey
2. Possibly the clearest of all Old Testament figures of Calvary
3. All the promises have been fulfilled... they have Isaac... or have they?

I. It is a "Test"

- A. We are alerted that it is a test in verse 1
 - so everything that follows is seen in light of the "test" idea
 - God had faith in him or He would not have tested him
- B. The rabbis assert that the testing of Abraham was not devious since God tests only those who can withstand - Ps. 11:5
- C. Remember:
 - not seen as wrong in Abraham's day, surrounding nations would not have thought twice about this test
 - not yet have a clear picture of what God wanted, and what He did not
 - the law had not been given
- D. What is the test?
 - 1) Willingness
 - 2) In Chapter 12 he is asked to give up his past... here his future
 - 3) Gave God his best
 - to give God his own aged body, would've been nothing
 - 4) He gave God, what he loved the most
- E. The final test of his faith - to achieve the promises made at Haran
 - before Jesus began His ministry, He was "tested" in the wilderness (Mt. 4:1ff)
 - all the lesser trials/ tests led to this one
- F. A means for revealing obedience
- G. On a daily basis... do you love God, or do you love God's blessings?
 - very similar to the test of Job
- H. What God wants - obedience and trust
- I. Potential faith is exercised... or realized
- J. Revealed that Abraham "fears" the Lord (12)
- K. F. Scott Peck said in People of the Lie, *"The reader is struck by the extraordinary willfulness of evil people. They are men and women of obviously strong will, determined to have their way. There is a remarkable power in the manner in which they attempt to control others."*
 - "The crucial distinction is between willingness and willfulness."*

II. Instructions

- A. Child sacrifice - the Bible will condemn child sacrifice
 - especially the practice in the service of Molech - Lev. 18:21; 20:2-5
 - sacrifice him, is the language of tabernacle sacrifice
- B. Your son, your only son, whom you love (2)
- C. Moriah is a mountain range, not a mountain
 - God is very specific where the sacrifice is to be made
- D. Specific - three days, for three days Isaac was as good as dead

III. Drama

- A. Mute dad
 - B. Three day journey
 - C. Your son, your only son, whom you love
 - D. Drama of binding
 - E. Drama of reaching for the knife
- !!). -like slow motion

IV. Abraham's Reaction

- A. He says nothing... is mute - simply obeys
-in Genesis 18-19, Abraham takes issue with what God is about to do in destroying Sodom and Gomorrah... here he does not negotiate with God
- B. "We will come back to you" (verse 5) shows his trust of God
- C. Third day
- D. God will provide a lamb - an open answer to God's work (8)
- E. He killed Isaac in his heart (verse 11), though not literally**

V. Isaac, for His Part

- A. Does not run
- B. Does ask questions
- C. A test of Abraham... and an introduction/ test for Isaac
- D. Isaac trusted Abraham... just like Abraham trusted God

VI. What is God Doing?

- A. A test... faith is completed by obedience
 - B. Substitutionary atonement
-but this time it is a person
 - C. The whole matter is a theological excursion
 - D. Killed on his own "wood" (6)
 - E. Bound innocent, guiltless hands
 - F. Three days in the tomb
 - G. In this region (Moriah) is Mt Calvary - literally
 - H. "Only begotten of the father"
 - I. Lessons
 - 1) Substitutionary atonement
 - 2) Trust and obey -Learned that God was "Jehovah-Jireh" - God will provide
 - 3) Philo - the act was perfect... even though not carried out
- !!). -the Rich Young Ruler was asked for that which was precious to him, as well
- 4) Barnabas (New Testament times) -notes the shouldering of the wood, like Jesus
 - 5) Augustine (early church father) -notes the wood, but also the ram, with its "horns" caught in the thicket remind us of Jesus' crown of thorns
 - 6) When we put our trust in God... dying to ourselves... God provides a sacrifice
 - 7) God accepted Abraham's faith and motive for the actual sacrifice - He reckoned it to Abraham's account as if he had actually killed Isaac

On the one hand we learn how much Abraham loved God (Isaac), on the other hand we learn how much God loved us (Jesus).