



What is your Isaac?

August 5, 2019

GENESIS 22:1-2 NKJV – (1) Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (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."

Abraham had obeyed God many times in his walk with Him, but no test could have been more severe than the one in **Genesis 22**. God commanded, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering" (**Genesis 22:2a**).

This was an astounding command because Isaac was the son of promise. God had promised several times that from Abraham's own body would come a nation as multitudinous as the stars in heaven (**Genesis 12:2-3; 15:4-5**). Later, Abraham was specifically told that the promise would be through Isaac (**Genesis 21:12**).

How did Abraham respond to God's command to sacrifice Isaac? With **immediate obedience**; early the next morning, Abraham started on his journey with two servants, a donkey and his beloved son Isaac, with firewood for the offering. His unquestioning obedience to God's confusing command gave God the glory He deserves and is an example to us of how to glorify God. When we obey as Abraham did, trusting that God's plan is best, we exalt His attributes and praise Him. Abraham's obedience in the face of this crushing command exalted God's sovereign love, His trustworthiness, and His goodness, and it provided an example for us to follow. His faith in the God he had come to know and love placed Abraham in the pantheon of faithful heroes in **Hebrews 11**.

Abraham's faith was such that, even if he had sacrificed Isaac, he believed the Lord would keep His word and raise Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19). God uses Abraham's faith as an example of the type of faith required for salvation. **Genesis 15:6** says, "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." This truth is the basis of the Christian faith, as reiterated in **Romans 4:3** and **James 2:23**. The righteousness that was credited to Abraham is the same righteousness credited to us when we receive by faith **the sacrifice** God provided for our sins—Jesus Christ. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

Notice the sacrifice or surrender by Abraham and Jesus! What you willing to give up? What is your Isaac? What's most important to you that God has taken second, third or last place? Again, what is your Isaac?

SCRIPTURE READING

JEREMIAH 1:16

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God will provide everything you need (financially, emotionally and spiritually) to fulfill His purpose for you.