

Abraham and Isaac: The Promised Seed

Quote:

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?”

James 2:21-22

Genesis 15:2

“I go” - used of dying (Psa 39:13).

“childless” - The promise depended on an heir which appeared humanly impossible (Heb 11:11-12). Abram therefore sought a son before he died.

Genesis 15:8 - A request for confirmation is answered by sacrifice. Two parties agreed to a covenant by passing between divided animal bodies (Jer 34:18).

Genesis 15:10

“divided them” - Christ ratified Yahweh’s covenant through sacrifice (Rom 15:8)

Genesis 15:17

“a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp” - represents the presence of God (Rev 4:5).

“that passed between those pieces” - God ratifies His part of the covenant.

Genesis 17:

v.1 - “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine” - 13 years have passed since the birth of Ishmael

v.5 - “Abram” - Lofty Father

“Abraham” - Father of a great multitude (see margin). He was the father of all those justified by faith (Rom 4:16-17). The seed of Abraham do the works of Abraham (Jn 8:39).

v.10 - “circumcised” - a token or sign of the covenant. In circumcising a child, the parent committed to begin with that child the process of cutting off the flesh in his life. This was what Yahweh desired (Deut 10:16; 30:6; Rom 2:28-29). It is the truth as it is in Jesus believed and obeyed, which cuts off the flesh. This begins with baptism (Phil 3:3; Col 2:11-12; Eph 4:22).

v.17 - “laughed” - not of disbelief, but of joyous wonderment and amazement (Rom 4:18-22).

v.19 - “Isaac” - laughter

Genesis 22:

v.1 - “tempt” - test, try. God tests us in order to develop us for His kingdom (ct. Jam.1:13).

“only son” – as was Jesus ([John 3:16](#)).

“Moriah” – Seen of Yah. Located in Jerusalem. Solomon’s temple built here ([2 Chron 3:1](#)). It was here where Yahweh watched His son die.

v.3 – **“rose up early”** - no hesitation.

v.5 – **“and come again to you”** - He knew that God must restore Isaac again from the dead, in order to fulfil His promises ([Heb 11:17-19](#)).

v.6 – **“laid it upon Isaac”** –Jesus bore his cross ([John 19:17](#)).

“and they went both of them together” – Father and Son working together for the salvation of mankind ([2 Cor 5:19](#)). [Colour in same repeated phrase in v8, 19 - use Blue]

v.8 – **“God will provide Himself a lamb”** - Jesus, the lamb of God, that Yahweh has provided ([John 1:29, 36](#)).

v.9 – **“bound Isaac”** – a willing sacrifice ([Luke 22:42](#)), as he could have easily fought off his aged father.

v.11 – **“And the angel of the LORD called unto him”** – First calling related to the sacrifice of Isaac, and therefore represents the first advent of Jesus and his sacrificial work ([v.15](#)).

v.13 – **“a ram”** – a ram is the protector of the flock. In the Hebrew it signifies “strength”. He was caught in a thicket to represent the fact that Christ was caught in the redemptive work of mankind. Both Isaac and the ram represent Christ. Together they show Christ saved by his own sacrifice ([Heb 13:20](#)).

v.14 – **“Yahweh-jireh”** - “Yahweh will see or provide” (see margin). God would provide Himself a lamb and would see His Son sacrificed in this region.

v.15 - Represents the second advent of Jesus and his work to fulfil the promise Abraham is about to receive.

v.16 – **“By myself have I sworn”** - an iron clad guarantee. Cited in [Hebrews 6:13-14](#) (see margin).

v.17 – **“I will bless thee”** - In [Genesis 12](#) - the promise was conditional - now it is unconditional.

“stars of the heaven” – represents spiritual seed of Israel ([Rom 9:6-8, Mat 13:43, Dan 12:3](#))

“sand which is upon the sea shore” - represents natural seed of Israel ([2 Sam 17:11, Isa 10:22; 48:19](#)).

“possess the gate” – Whoever controls the gate controls the city. Spiritually it refers to the gateways into our mind. The seed of Abraham control these.

“his” – Jesus Christ ([Psa 110:1-2, Gal 3:16](#)).

v.18 – **“all the nations of the earth be blessed”** - if they heed the call of the Gospel and identify with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Cited [Acts 3:25](#) and [Gal 3:8](#) – see margin).