

~Hebrews~

Lesson 27 – By Faith...Abraham offered Isaac

Last week we learned about the Abrahamic Covenant and the Promise to him and his **Seed** who is Christ.

- We learned that the ultimate completion of this Promise is the Resurrection unto Eternal life. This is when we will be glorified in Jesus, spending eternity with Him in our glorified bodies.
- Today, we will see Abraham take hold of that Promise. Being fully assured in the Hope that which is to come, standing on the convicted proof of God's Word.

*Hebrews 11:13 Having died in faith, not having received the promises, but **having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** For Jesus said in, John 8:56 “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and **he saw it and was glad.**”*

Hebrews 11:17-19 ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- Isaac was probably in his 30's when this event occurred which is different than the normal portrayal of Isaac being a young boy.
- Jewish tradition has him being even as old as 37 years old, just before Sarah's death.
- This would mean that Abraham was in his 130's, giving him 60 years of walking with God.
 - As we saw last week, it was in these 60 years that Abraham grew in his relationship with God.
 - God revealed His plan to Abraham and through his understanding of the Word, faith came out and his dokimion, δοκίμιον, his proven genuineness, strengthened and grew.
 - As Abraham was faithful and his character increased, this allowed God to continue revealing more to Him.

Now we are at the ultimate revealing.

- God not only chose Abraham to bring about the Seed into this world, but now he is choosing Abraham to **make proof** of the single most impactful act in human history, namely the sacrifice of Jesus and His resurrection.
- Remember from last week, the Promise is of resurrection and eternal life, and it was through this type, the shadow of a good thing to come, Col 2:17, that God was then able to sacrifice His only begotten Son.

Let's read the account of the offering in Genesis, then we will come back to Hebrews and study the pieces.

Remember the Promise of God concerning Isaac...

Genesis 17:19 Then God said: “Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants (**Seed**) after him.

Genesis 22:1-18 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.”

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

⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” ...“Look, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**” ⁸ And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, ... “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do



anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since **you have not withheld your son, your only son**, from Me.”

¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering **instead of his son**. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, **The LORD Will Provide**;

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your **descendants (Seed)** shall possess the gate of their enemies. (Jesus has the keys to Death and Hades) ¹⁸ In your **Seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**”

Hebrews 11:17-19 ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was ^atested, offered up Isaac, and he who had ^breceived the promises offered up his ^conly begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your ^dSeed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that ^eGod was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also ^freceived him in a figurative sense.

a) tested – peirazo, πειράζω, to test, try, or make proof

- Abraham is “making proof” of the future Sacrifice and Resurrection of Jesus

b) received the promises

- we see the English word “received” three times in three verses, namely v. 13, 17, and 19, but they all are different Greek words
 - v. 13- lambano, λαμβάνω, to take, to possess, as in receiving after being offered
 - None of these possessed the promise
 - v. 17- anadechomai, ἀναδέχομαι, to accept, to welcome
 - Abraham did welcome the promises and received them by faith
 - v. 19- komizo, κομίζω, receive back, repaid or paid back

c) only begotten son

- this was Abraham’s only son in God’s eyes, the son of promise

d) Seed shall be called

- The **Seed** is Jesus. In Isaac, the Messiah will be called.
 - The word called is from the word kaleo, καλέω
 - meaning to name, “they called His name Jesus”, Matt 1:25
 - or a calling, as into the ministry, “Jesus found the sons of Zebedee and called them”, Matt 4:21
 - we see these two meanings working in the life of Jesus
 - He was given the Name above every name, Phil 2:9
 - Before the foundation of the world God chose Jesus as the Lamb slain, Rev 13:8

e) God being able to raise him up from the dead

- The Promise to Abraham and the Seed was Resurrection life by the Spirit of God

f) received him back in a figurative sense

- received - komizo, κομίζω, receive back, repaid or paid back
 - Abraham received Isaac back from the dead. He knew he was fulfilling prophecy.
- figurative sense- parable, παραβολή, this is usually translated as parables

Examples of Types

This offering of Isaac is an example of what we call a type or a model of things to come.

- We see types all throughout the Bible.
- A “type” used in Scripture is a representation or pre-figuring of something that is to come.
 - These were intentionally designed by God to prefigure a future event
 - I think God chose this method to get us involved with His plan of Redemption

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

- God chose to foreshadow the sacrifice of Jesus through faithful Abraham.
 - What a wonderful opportunity that God would choose you to be an integral and vital part of His plan of Redemption! Gen 22:18
- Below are some examples of types used to foreshadow future events:
 - Noah and the flood = type of the baptism, resurrection, and new life
 - Melchizedek = type of Jesus

- Jonah and the great fish = type of Jesus being in Hades for 3 days and 3 nights
- Moses and the bronze serpent = type of Jesus on the cross
- Tabernacle = a copy and shadow of heavenly things, Heb 8:5
- Water from the rock = type of Living Water from the Rock who is Jesus
- Manna = type of the Bread of Life who is Jesus
- Passover in the time of Moses = Christ who is our Passover because the wrath of God will pass-over those under or in the blood of Jesus
- The Law was given 50 days after Passover = Pentecost, 50 days after the Resurrection is the giving of the Holy Spirit of Promise

These are just a few examples of what could be hundreds if not thousands of types foreshadowing Jesus.

- He said the volume of the book, it is written of Me, Heb 10:7, Ps 40:7
- When we get to heaven, we will be astounded at the thousands of ways the Old Testament portrayed the redemption plan of God through Jesus Christ.
- The two disciples got a taste of this on the road to Emmaus, Luke 24:27

Below are the types portrayed in the offering of Isaac foreshadowing Jesus:

Old Testament Type	New Testament Fulfilment in Jesus
Only Begotten Son Your only begotten son whom you love, Gen 22:2, Heb 11:17	Only Begotten Son For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, John 3:16 He has translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, Col 1:13
Sacrificed on the same mount Go to the land of Moriah on the mount I tell you, Gen 22:2	Sacrificed on the same mount They had come to a place called Golgotha, Matt 27:33
Dead for Three Days Three day journey to the place of the sacrifice, Gen 22:4 In Abrahams heart, Isaac was dead when they left on the journey, Heb 11:17	Dead for Three Days For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, Matthew 12:40
The Resurrection The lad and I will go worship and we will come back to you, Gen 22:5 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, out from the dead; from which also he received him back in a figure, Hebrews 11:19	The Resurrection Christ died and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1 Cor 15:3-4 He is not here: for he is risen..., Matthew 28:6
Bore the wood of the Sacrifice Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid <i>it</i> on Isaac his son, Genesis 22:6	Bore the wood of the Sacrifice And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called <i>the Place</i> of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, John 19:17
The Lamb of God Isaac was the sacrifice But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where <i>is</i> the lamb for a burnt offering?" Genesis 22:7	The Lamb of God God will provide Himself the Lamb, Gen 22:8 The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world, John 1:29 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing, Revelation 5:12
Our Provider God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said <i>to</i> this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.", Genesis 22:14	Our Provider Jesus offered Himself as our substitute. God will provide Himself the Lamb, Gen 22:8 We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once <i>for all</i> . This Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, Hebrews 10:10, 12

Trials and Tribulations

The process of the trial, the peirasmos, πειρασμός, has a specific purpose and effect on faith and how it works with our proven character, namely our dokimion, δοκίμιον, which is our proven genuineness, Jm 1:2-4, 1 Pet 1:6-7, Rom 5:3-4

I will preface this by saying, “**In this New Covenant, God does not test, peirazo, πειράζω, us with evil.**” But that doesn’t mean we are exempt from being tested. In fact, it is quite the opposite. In doing God’s will, **we will** encounter tests and trials, *John 16:33 ...In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*”

As New Covenant believers, how are we supposed to handle trials and tribulations?

- We handle trials the same way Abraham did.
- By faith he got up early the next morning and walked right into it and embraced the trial being fully persuaded in God’s Promise.

Romans 4:21 ...being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

There is a connection between the peirasmos, πειρασμός, and our dokimion, δοκίμιον.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures **temptation**, peirasmos, πειρασμός; because being made **provable**, dokimos, δόκιμος, he will receive the crown of life...

In the New Covenant, it is not God who is testing, peirazo-ing, us with evil. In fact, you will not find God actively tempting with evil anywhere in the New Testament.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone (by evil)

In this life there are two types of “trials”

As Christians, we are called to endure trials, temptations, and tribulations with JOY

- I think it is helpful and necessary to know the root of the trial.

There are Godly Trials and Evil Trials of the enemy

- Each trial produces in us and intensely works our dokimion, δοκίμιον, building up our proven genuineness, Jm 1:2-4, 1 Pet 1:6-7, Rom 5:3-4

Godly Trials	Evil Trials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trial of God is His calling, an opportunity for us to say yes to Him • It is a “proving” of God with good things, Jm 1:17 • It cleanses and purges us to bear more fruit • It re-proves us to walk in His calling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evil trials entangle us with this life, An invitation to live in the world • Trials of the enemy are meant to steal, kill and destroy, Jn 10:10, Jm 1:14 • Sickness, disease, calamity, strife, destruction • Forces us away from God’s calling

Our Godly calling is our test to “make proof” of our faithfulness and work with Him in the kingdom.

- Godly trials prove us through His Word as a loving Father, nurturing His children, Jn 15, 2 Tim 3:16, Heb 12:5-11.

John 15:1-2 ¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch **in Me** that does not bear fruit He lifts up, (airei, αἶρει); and every branch that bears fruit He cleanses, (kathairei, καθαίρει), that it may bear more fruit.

This is what the whole letter of Hebrews is about. A reproof of His children.

- In chapter 12 we see this reproof, His chastening
 - however we have to understand that **God is not chastening with evil**, namely sickness, disease, calamity..., James 1:2, 13-14,
 - and He is not even allowing the Devil to do it. These things come because we live in a fallen world
 - The enemy wants to steal, kill and destroy, Jn 10:10, testing and tempting us with evil, 1 Cor 7:5; Gal 6:1; 1 Thes 3:5; Heb 2:18, 4:15, 11:37; Jm 1:14.
 - This process builds our dokimion δοκίμιον. The enemy tries to tempt us with evil things, trying to pull us from God’s will and calling on our life, but **this trial in fact will make us stronger**, Gen 50:20
 - It is the dokimion δοκίμιον, we have built in our lives that give us the strength to endure the temptations of the enemy, and **overcome with joy**, James 1:2

On Paul's return from his third missionary journey, in a hurry to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost, he spoke with the Ephesian elders in Miletus so he wouldn't have to travel inland to Ephesus. Listen to what Paul says about trials and tribulations:

Acts 20:17-24 ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them:

“You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials, *peirasmos*, *πειρασμός*, which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that **chains and tribulations await me.** ²⁴ But **none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy,** and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

This is the same faith that Abraham had, resurrection power. Paul didn't count his life as dear because he believed in the resurrection, the same with Abraham. He knew if he sacrificed Isaac, God was going to raise him back up through resurrection power!

Paul knew his calling and even being warned of persecutions, he was still true to the calling because he kept his eyes fixed on Jesus, the prize of the upward call, Phil 3:12-14. So did Abraham

- God called Paul to preach the gospel, knowing this calling would have many trials, tribulations, and persecutions along the way.
 - But through God's foreknowledge, He chose Paul because He knew he would persevere and endure by faith.
 - Both Paul and Abraham's heart was focused on Jesus by which their proven genuineness, *dokimion* *δοκίμιον*, was so sure, no trial or test would sway them.
 - We should be **expecting these tribulations**, in fact we should, just like Paul, **embrace** them and **walk into it**, counting it all **joy** when we meet or encounter these trials, James 1:2.

God will find a new way every day to ask us to be a fellow-worker with Him. Working in His kingdom in the plan of redemption knowing that His calling comes with trials.

- It is our choice to say **YES!** and embrace the calling and walk into these trials with **JOY**, being fully persuaded in the Promise of God

Dokimazo me, prove me, Lord, and test me, burn me with fire,
and purge my mind and my heart
Ps 26:2 LXX

This was the heart of David, this was the heart of Abraham and Paul
And this needs to be the heart of every
born again believer
in Christ