

FORESHADOWINGS 2 - Abraham & Isaac

GENESIS 12:1-3 → *I will make YOU a great nation ...*

- * From a HUMAN perspective, utterly IMPOSSIBLE.
- * From HEAVEN'S perspective, in order to make LEGAL ATONEMENT for HUMAN sin, God had to make LEGAL ENTRY in HUMAN form.
- * No MERE HUMAN could ever QUALIFY to be that SACRIFICE, so GOD HIMSELF was going to have to COME (John 3:16-17).
- * Promise reaffirmed in Genesis 15:5-6

→ *Why was the promise impossible? Why did God choose an old man and barren woman? What happened when Abraham tried to fix it himself? (think Ishmael) What was Abraham's role and how did he get on (see Romans 4)*

GENESIS 15:7-18

THE NEXT STEP: To SEAL the PROMISE, God makes a COVENANT with Abram.

Covenant is the way God DEFINES RELATIONSHIP with man.

Covenant is a LEGAL AGREEMENT / CONTRACT which includes:

- a) Exchange of PROMISES
- b) BLESSINGS & CURSES for KEEPING / BREAKING terms.
- c) Exchange of GIFTS
- d) Exchange of NAMES
- e) Sealed with BLOOD
- f) Concluded with a celebratory MEAL

→ *How do we see these elements played out in a wedding ceremony? What about the New Covenant?*

Covenant Theology

1. ADAMIC covenant (Genesis 3:15)
2. NOAHIC covenant (Genesis 8:20-9:17)
3. ABRAHAMIC covenant (Genesis 15)
4. MOSAIC covenant (Exodus 19-24)
5. DAVIDIC covenant (2 Samuel 7)
6. NEW covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-33, Luke 22:20)

→ *How do we see God's plan progressing through those successive covenants?*

God's Covenant with Abraham

- * God put ABRAHAM to SLEEP and DID IT ALL Himself.
- * At the point in the ceremony when Abraham should have STEPPED through the BLOOD, God INTERVENES.
- * The smoking firepot / flaming torch is considered to be a THEOPHANY = An OT APPEARANCE of JESUS (Hebrews 12:29).

- * "You BREAK the TERMS of this covenant (and you will), and I will DIE in your place."

→ *So, in summary, why did God put Abraham to sleep and perform the covenant ritual Himself? Is this the point at which God sentences Himself, His Son, to die and if so why?*

GENESIS 22:1-18

- Note 4 things:
1. Strong SIGNIFICANCE of SACRIFICE
 2. OBEDIENCE of Abraham
 3. WILLINGNESS of Isaac
 4. PROVISION of God

ABRAHAM

- * Willing to SACRIFICE his MOST PRECIOUS, SELFLESSLY, for a GREATER CAUSE, to relinquish his DEAREST for the SAKE of ALL OTHERS.
- * Passage illustrates a father's COST, PAIN, SACRIFICE that Abraham EXPERIENCED then, and that God the Father would Himself on CRUCIFIXION DAY (Galatians 3:8, John 8:56).

→ *What else was Abraham giving up, besides the life of his son?*

→ *Would you have been prepared to lay down your son on that altar? Would you lay down what you thought was supernaturally sparked? Would you do whatever it take to open up the way for salvation for others?*

ISAAC

- * WILLING OBEDIENCE no evidence of FUSS, COMPLAINING or RELUCTANCE (Isaiah 53:7, Philippians 2:8).

→ *How does this reflect how Jesus behaved at Gethsemane, during His trial and on the Cross?*

- * It's clear that Isaac CO-OPERATED from start to finish.
- * Also very DOUBTFUL that Isaac was a CHILD.
- * Plus, he didn't just CO-OPERATE he actively PARTICIPATED → He CARRIED the WOOD, just as Jesus CARRIED His own CROSS.
- * All through, both characters were convinced of one thing: JEHOVAH-JIREH, God will PROVIDE (Revelation 13:8).

→ *Why did God allow it to go so close to the line / leave it right to the last minute?*

→ *What is the significance of Mount Moriah? Why did Solomon build his temple on the same spot? How close was Calvary / Golgotha to this exact spot?*

RESPONSE

1. **WORSHIP** → Awe + majesty
2. **WILLINGNESS** → *How quick are you to obey? Are you submitted + surrendered? Are you holding anything back from the Lord?*