

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, pure, innocent BLOOD had to be shed & no mere HUMAN could ever QUALIFY to be that SACRIFICE.
 - * So GOD HIMSELF was going to have to COME.
 - * Why did God choose an OLD man & a BARREN woman?
Supernatural RESULTS always come from supernatural SEED.
- *Why was the promise impossible? Why did God choose an old man & barren woman? What happened when Abraham tried to fix it himself? (think Ishmael) What was Abraham's role & how did he get on (see Romans 4)?*
→ *Why was it necessary for God to have to create a way to come to earth Himself?*

GENESIS 15:7-18: To SEAL the PROMISE, God made a COVENANT with Abram.

- * Covenant is the way God chose to demonstrate His RELATIONAL COMMITMENT to man.
- *Why did people or tribes make covenants with one another? What elements typically went into the cutting of a covenant? How do we see these elements played out in our typical wedding ceremony?*

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

- * At the point in the ceremony when Abraham should have STEPPED through the BLOOD, God Himself INTERVENED.
- * The smoking firepot / flaming torch is considered to be a THEOPHANY = An OT APPEARANCE of JESUS.
- * God Himself STEPPED in as MEDIATOR: "I'll take the CURSE for breaking this agreement & when you do, I will DIE in your PLACE."

→ *Why did God put Abraham to sleep & perform the covenant ritual Himself? Is this the point at which God sentences Himself, His Son, to die?*

GENESIS 22:1-18

Abraham represents the FATHER; Isaac is a type of CHRIST.

→ *In what ways do Abraham represent God the Father & Isaac, Christ the Son, in this story?*

Passage highlights 4 factors:

1. Crucial significance of blood SACRIFICE
2. OBEDIENCE of Abraham
 - * Willing to SACRIFICE his MOST PRECIOUS THING
 - * Prepared to give up his DREAM, jeopardise the PROMISE & surrender his personal BLESSING.
 - * To TRUST God when asked to lay down what he was convinced was SUPERNATURALLY SPARKED.
 - * This was the day God showed Abraham HOW the promise would be fulfilled & revealed to him the GOSPEL (Gal 3:8, John 8:56)

→ *Would you have been prepared to lay down your son on that altar? Would you so willingly lay down something you were convinced was supernaturally sparked? Would you do whatever it takes to open up the way to salvation for others?*

3. WILLINGNESS of Isaac

- * It's clear Isaac CO-OPERATED from start to finish, WILLINGLY prepared to go to his own death at his father's request.
- * Think of ANYONE ELSE who did that? Isa 53:7. Phil 2:8

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

- * Isaac didn't JUST co-operate, he actively PARTICIPATED: He carried the WOOD, just as Jesus carried HIS OWN CROSS.

4. PROVISION of GOD

- * All the way through, both key characters were convinced of one thing: Jehovah JIREH: God, the mediator, would PROVIDE (Gen 22:8,14, John 1:29, 1 Cor 5:7, Rev 19:7).

→ *Why did God allow this episode to run so close to the line? What important facets was He trying to demonstrate?*

→ *"But Isaac was innocent, 'I hear you cry, 'he didn't deserve to die!'" Why is that exactly the point?*

→ *What is the significance of Mount Moriah? Why did Solomon build his temple on the same spot? How close was Calvary to Mt Moriah? Is that a coincidence?*