

Title: The Supreme Sacrifice

Text: Gen 22:1-14

6:25
Genesis 22, please, beginning at Vs 1 and we are talking today about one of the greatest messages of all the Bible----The sacrifice of Abraham's son Issac and its relationship to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Genesis 22....I invite you to follow along in your Bibles. And, also to take notes as you will find them in your bulleting

(Read Gen 22:1-14)

Let us look to the Lord in a moment of prayer

Our Father we pray as we study your Word that you would make us aware that this is Your Word -- the truth to each of us. We thank you for the message of this chapter. We thank you for what it pictures in the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we pray for those in our Service who do not ~~possess~~ possess the peace of joy of a personal relationship with Christ. Oh, God, we pray, that you would show them clearly Jesus. And we pray that we might understand that only Jesus can save us. And we ask thas that he might be glorified. We ask this in his name.....Amen.

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The background to our chapter involves the four great test which Abraham has already experienced of which this one is the supreme test.... the greatest sacrifice that he could ever make.

Those four test began back in chapter 12. In chapter 12 Abraham was ask to separate from his native land and family. And that was certainly a severe test.

In chapter 13, Abraham was ask to separate from Lot. And there was great strife between Abrham and Lot. And that was certainly a great test.

In chapter 17 Abraham was ask to surrender all of his plans about Ishmael being the heir to God's promise. God told Abraham that Ishmael was not the son of the promise. Abraham had Ishameal through Hagar the Egyptian. Thinking that perhaps this would be the answer to Sarah's bearness.

But as you know, God performed a miracle and Sarah ~~at 90~~ at 90 years old had a child. And they named him laughter because certainly all the world would laugh that a miracle could be performed and a woman of 90 years of age could give birth to a child....

of all the tests that came to Abraham the was
But the greatest test of all, ~~came in chapter 22~~ when God ask Abraham to sacrifice his own son as a burnt offering.

At first reading that might not seem to you as the severe test that it is in the Word of God. Because you see, according to the Bible, Abraham has already learned that in Isaac "shall thy seed be called," One thing that Abraham knew and that was that Isaac had to have a son. And now, before he was ever married, God says, "I want you to offer him as a burnt offering."

You talk about a test. All of the things that Abraham had learned about the promises of God and all the trouble he had and how he had failed, and now came the great test. For he knew that all the Messianic hope was in that boy named Isaac. There wasn't any hesitation about this. God had said it was Isaac. And now he ask him to kill Isaac.

Can you not understand the torment of Abraham's soul, "How then can the purposes of God be accomplished." To kill the very boy, you say, is to be line through which the promise will continue. Isaac must have a son. So how can he be killed before he is even married.

And I am remained that God never finishes the work of testing believers. And he hasn't finished with us. Those who have attended "Basic Youth Conflict under Bill Gother find little badges there that have a whole serious of letters on them; and what they mean comes out "PRAISE THE LORD, HE IS NOT FINISHED WITH ME YET."

And God isn't done with us , yet. Until he calls us home, ever one of us ~~is~~ going to go through test in our life. God wants to test us. He is refining us, he is molding us, he is making us what he wants us to be. And this was certainly the severest test that Abraham had ever faced in all of his life. And God brought it to him. And often in our lives that supreme sacrifice will come. Because the issue here is "How much do you

of your life

really love God. How much have you really decided to submit unto God."

Paul

And you know, God ~~didn't~~ didn't even finish after he spared Isaac.

Because Isaac's own wife, Rebecca, was barren. Do you know the story? We are going to study about that in just a couple of weeks. She was barren.

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And then you come to Jacob. Jacob with all his problems with Leah and Rachel; and working 14 years for those two women. And all those problems. You see, God never finishes with us, people. He test us all the time.

And this is the greatest test of all the ~~father's of the nation of~~ ~~Israel....~~ to give your own son as a sacrifice to God....

(1C) The first thing I would like you to notice about this ^{Test} chapter is the nature of the sacrifice that Abraham was called on to make. Because it involves two basic things, as I see it in Vs 2. Let's read it again.

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(Read Gen 22:2)

Now, mount Moriah is a sacred place. It is sacred ^{is} today. There is a Moslem shrine, the dome of the rock that sits there. And in that Moslem shrine is the rock where Abraham offered Isaac. ^{you see} Both Moslem and Jew look to Abraham.

But it was in Isaac that the seed was called But it was on ^{that} the mount, which is now found ~~in~~ the heart of Jerusalem, that Abraham offered his son Isaac. And if you can somehow picture that scene, your mind should then capture the same hill only now it is called Golgotha - the place of the skull. And it was there that Jesus was crucified.....

So, first of all as to ^{The nature,} his glory, here was just a place and God said "go there and I am going to ask you to give Isaac as a burnt offering."

And out of the five Levitical offerings the burnt offering is the key one. It was for sin. For the sin of the people. And ^{God} he said, "I want you to offer Isaac as though he was a sacrifice for the sin of the people.

Two things this sacrifice involved. Two Things ^{God involved in our} ^{commitment to God.} committed to God.

(1D) Number one, it involved his submission to the will of God. Because he says in Vs 2, "take now your only son, Isaac." Now, friends, Isaac was not ^{Abraham} his only son. Then why does the Bible say, "his only son?"

Abraham

He had Ishmeal....He also had another wife after Sarah died, Teruah, and she had many sons. One of whom was Medan, the father of the Medanite nation.

So, if he had other sons, why does he say He is the only son?....Because he was the only son in terms of the promise. ^{IN} Isaac shall ^{the} seed be called. *IN ISSAC SHALL THE PROMISE BE FULFILLED*

And over in the book of Hebrews we learn that he was called the only begotten son. Will, was he Abraham's only begotten? No, he had other sons. But, the word "begotten" means "unique"...His unique son. The one through whom the promise would come. So, the sacrifice that Abraham was

called on to make involved his submission to the will of God. God's plan was to bring the seed ^{of the messiah} through that son. And Abraham must have wondered, "how in the world is God going to accomplish his purpose if I offer Isaac as a sacrifice." But, he still ~~had~~ ^{had} to submit to the will of God. So, this sacrifice was a tremendous test to him. He had to submit to God's will that God could do it even if Isaac was killed. He had to trust the will of God.

And by the way, Isaac becomes a beautiful type of our Lord Jesus Christ because in John 3:16 we read, "for God so loved the world that he gave his what?....only begotten son.....You say how is that possible? Because it is the same word used of Isaac...his unique son...the only one of his kind. The one who would die for the sins of the whole world. The saviour of all mankind. *Commitment involves trusting completely God's will.*

2D) There was a second thing involved here in the sacrifice that Abraham was called to make. And that is: it involved his surrender to the one he loved. Because it says, "take your son whom you love." And the issue here is quite clear: Do you love him more than you love me?.. And the Bible tells us in that same verse that the angel says, "Now, I know that you fear God."(22:12)...The issue was your love for God and your love for your son.

The Bible does not tell us that Abraham had a special love for Ishmael or any of his other boys. But it does tell us that he loved Isaac. Now, we who are parents can imagine what this means. Here is a boy that has captured your heart, you love him, and now God says "kill him.".....because the issue was love for God.

Issue: - How much do you⁻⁵⁻ Love Jesus, That is what Commitments all about

Jesus, himself, said, "if you are not willing to forsake father, mother, son, daughter, wife, even your own life, you are not worthy of me."

The issue is: "you shall ~~the~~ love the Lord your God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy ~~might~~ mind and strength

Abraham loved Isaac. He loved him just as much as any father here could love a son. And Commitment ~~it~~ involved his surrendering the thing he loved the most to God..

Sometimes, friends, we will have to do that. We are going to have to surrender to God the thing we love the most in order to find his will and his plan for our life. Surrender to receive God's blessings

I am reminded that this is a beautiful type for the Bible tells us that the Father loves Christ. Jesus was praying in John 17 and thanking the Father that he loved him even before the foundations of the world. The Father loved the son. And in Luke 3:22 at the time of the baptism of Jesus, we read this: a voice came from heaven and said: "thou art my beloved son, or the 'son of my love'. In thee I am well pleased.

And I read in I John 3:1, "behold what great love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God."

The Father's love is being exalted here. Abraham loved Isaac. But, the issue: Do you love God more.....Take away the thing he loved the most. Time
In order to determine his real love for God...

(2C) I would like you to notice something in Vs 5 as to the second major point and that is that: this man Abraham and his son separated themselves from the two young men and went up the hill together.

Now, I don't know all ~~what~~ they discussed. ~~But we know some of the things they discussed because the Bible tells us.~~

(1D) One of which was: Isaac turned to his Dad because they had the wood and the fire and the knife and said, "Hey, Dad, there is something I would like to talk to you about.".....Now, maybe you don't see that in the Word. But I sure do....Isaac said, "Look, we have all these things for the sacrifice. Not, that I am questioning you, Dad, but where is the lamb?"

And I don't know what went on as they climb that hill. But, I know one thing that Abraham separated himself and his son from the two young men that came with them. And I thought what a beautiful type. Because when Jesus died on the cross at that supreme moment of sacrifice for three hours, from 12 to 3, in the middle of the day. There was darkness over the world and the Father and the son had separated themselves from all humanity. And what went on there in the divine counsels of God I don't know. But at the end of that time Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?.....Well, the answer lies in the fact that Jesus in that one moment bore all of the sins of the whole human race. In that one moment all the sins that you have ever committed, that I have committed, that we could ever commit was laid on Jesus Christ. The Bible says in I Peter 3 that he bore our sins in his own body on the tree. All that we have ever done. All that we could ever do was there upon Jesus. And in that moment he sensed the Father turning from him because he could not look upon the sin that his son was bearing.

Here, Abraham and his son walk up that lonely hill and separate themselves from the young men. A beautiful type of the loneliness of the crucifixion.

(3C) The ^{second} third thing I would like you to see are the symbols of death as they are mentioned in Vs 6. Just three things were involved.

In Vs 6 it says "that Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together."

Three things: The wood, the fire, and the knife. Will you take your Bibles, please and turn to John chapter 19...John chapter 19 and let's begin at Vs 5....John 19:5.....~~(1D)~~ "Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold, the man!" There he is!.....Many have suggested in that last moment Pilate was wishing with all of his heart that some ^{how} the crowd would release him of what he knew he was doing was wrong. Pilate knew that he, as a Roman governor, was doing an injustice on that occasion.

There was no fault in ^{Jesus and} ~~him~~. We read in the story of Genesi 22 the simple facts, ^{that} There is no fault lieing in Isaac as to why Abraham was killin him. And he is a beautiful type of Christ. There wasn't any fault in Christ There was no sin in him. He wasn't dieing because he deserved to die. Pilate knew that. So, he shows him to the crowd, Jesus waring a purple robe with a crown of thones pressed down upon his head with the blood flowing down his checks, he had been beaten and scouraged and mocked and spite upon, and here ~~he~~ is...a toured man,And Pilate says. "behold the man"...

And he hoped in that one moment as they looked upon Jeesu that some how they would say, "O.K. let him go !" BUT DID THEY?....

Vs 6....When therefore the chief priest and the officers saw him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "take him yourselves, and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him."

As though he could wipe his hands of the whole situation. The Bible tells us he tried ^{To} wash his hands as if ~~he~~ could neglect his responsibility. And as someone has rightly concluded Pilate is spending Eternity in Hell trying to wash the guilt from his hands.

Vs 7..."The Jdeews answered him, 'we have a law, and by that law he ought to die becuase he made himself out to be the son of God."

Vs 16..."And so he then delivered him"...~~Notice, pilate delivered Jesus.~~ "to be crucified. They took Jesus therefore; and He went out, bearing his ~~own~~ own cross.".....HE..WENT..OUT..BEARING..HIS ..CROSS.

Now, the first symbol of death was wood. And the Bible says that A_braham laid it upon his son. That is, on his back to carry it up the mountain. A beautiful sybmbol of Jesus Christ, himself, who bore the wright of that cross...up that hill to die.

Now, a lot of us have the idea that "bearing your cross" means "to endure some kind off physical trial or suffering." That is not ture. "Bearing your cross" means that you are going to die...It is all over. The sentence has been passad. It is over. You are dieing.

Supplied Jesus said, "if any man whuld come after me, let him dien himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Self-interest - 8 -
self-desire

God must
Others Second
self - Third

Death to self. That I might know Christ. Whoever shall lose his life, said Jesus, shall find it for my sake. *Do you understand committed*

So, here we have Jesus bearing his own cross.... The ~~wood~~ ^{wood} was laid upon Isaac.

Coming back to
(2D) The second symbol of death in Gen 22 was fire. And all the way through scripture the testimony is that fire is a symbol of divine judgement. So, when the animal was burnt on the altar, it was a sign of the judgement of God. God's judgement was being applied to the sacrifice.

And I am reminded that at that moment when Jesus died all the judgement of a divine Holy God was placed on Jesus for the sin of the whole world. Isaiah 53 tells us that he was smitten of God.... [Maybe you thought the Romans crucified him. Maybe you thought the Jews crucified him. Maybe you thought the Gentiles crucified him. Maybe you thought all people crucified him. But the real truth is that He crucified himself... Jesus said that no person can take my life from me. I voluntarily give it myself.

But there is another truth behind all of this. And that is that the Father wanted Jesus to do it. And the Father as it were was smiting Jesus at the cross... [Did you know that the Bible, also, tells us in Isaiah 53 that it pleased the Father to bruise him. That God was delighted in that one moment to have Jesus dying on the cross.....

Now, how could that be true?... Because the Bible says that, he seeing torment of his soul and seeing the seed that would come as a result of his death was pleased to bruise him. We are the seed. We are the torment of his soul. We are the ^{one's} ~~one~~ who can come to know God and live with him forever through Jesus Christ. The Father saw that, when Jesus died. And it pleased him to bruise his own son that millions might be saved.

If you don't understand that, you must learn ~~more~~ more about the love of God than you presently know. *How shall we know is our concept of the love of God and our commitment to that love*

(3D) The third symbol was the knife. It was that final instrument of death. And you can visualize the scene as ^{ISAAC} he is ^{Tied} ~~tied~~ on the altar and Abraham has the knife ready to plunge it into him....

And that symbol of death is a beautiful symbol of our Lord..for the Bible tells us that he was wounded for our transgressions. It tells us in Zechariah 12 that they will look upon him who they have pierced. And you will remember at the cross they did not tie Jeus as was the custom; but they nailed him to the cross. And the nails in his hands are remainders of the instruments of death. They nailed his hands and his feet and the Bible says they pierced his side. Usually they broke one's legs. But, this was a fulfillment of prophecy because the Bible says that no bones in his body would be broken. Instead they pierced his side with a spear, and they knew he was dead and it was over.

(4C) And Abraham ~~was~~ the instrument of death in his hand and he is ready to bring it down. And that leads me to share with you what I think is one of the great truths of Genesis.....AND THAT IS THE SUBMISSION OF ISAAC.

I hope you understand this in all of its real truth. ^{don't} Remember Abrham is ~~an~~ an old man. He is not young. He is an elderly man. Some have suggested that probably he used a cane to go up that mountain. ~~We~~ don't know. But he was ^{an} ~~an~~ old man. And his son is in his prime. ^{*} He is about to be killed. This boy could have easily overpowered his Dad and escaped. But he did not. The boy ask a simple question: "Where is the lamb?" And what did Abraham say?....Did he say to him, "Son, guess what"?....."Your' it"... No, he didn't. Abraham's faith was ^{never} ~~even~~ that small. He was going all the way through it. Yet, he said to his boy, "God will provide himself a lamb." ^{Now, if I had been ISAAC} ~~If that had been me,~~ I would have been walking up that hill stricking my head, "Boy, the Old man has really blow his mind this time. Where in the world is he going to get a lamb. There isn't a lamb in sight."

" God will provide himself a lamb!"...Isaac could have resisted his Father but he did not. *Submission To His Father IT makes our commitment week*

and And I read a beautiful thing at the end of Vs 8...Did you notice that? Chapger 22:8...After Abraham answered Isaac and told him that God would provide a lamb, it says, "So the two of them walked on together." That is beautiful.....Don't miss it.....

They went together. And Isaac becomes a beautiful type of Christ because the Bible says, that Christ answered to the Father when he went to the cross "Lo, I ^{Come} come to do thy will, Oh, God".....And in the garden Christ prayed, "not my will, but thine be done." *That is what God wants in our life that kind of commitment*

Isaac was not rebelling. Even to the point that Abraham ^{Tied} ~~tighted~~ him and laid him on the altar and there he was with a knife over his head, and Isaac could have shouted..."Hay, wait a minute Dad. Remember I am the one you love.".....No..he didn't .

And the Bible says in Isaiah 53 that Jesus was like a lamb that was ^{led} ~~lead~~ to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open His mouth."

Can you not see that trial? As Pilate is almost going crazy trying to get something out of Christ. The Bible says that Jesus answered him not a word. You see, Jesus wanted to die. He wasn't there to defend himself. He wasn't trying to escape the ~~cross~~ ^{cross}. He wanted to die. He wanted to die for you and for me. The Bible says that ~~he~~ he saw clearly all ~~will~~ who would ever accept him. ^{Phil. 2:8} ~~And~~ he for the joy that was set before him endured the cross; despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)....Jesus wanted to go to the cross for you and for me.

(30) The ^{Fifth} ~~fiveth~~ thing I would like you to see which is a wonderful truth of this sotory in Vs 9-13 and that is the substitution of the lamb.

Now the Bible tells us in Vs 11 that the angel of the Lord stops Abraham. He says "Abraham, Abraham" And he answered, "Here I am." And he said, "do nothing to the lad, for I know that you fear God."

And the Bible says in Vs 13 that Abraham raised his eyes and looked behind him and found a ram caught in the thicket by his horns.

Now, a lot of people who have laughed at the Bible has said about this: "Well, isn't that funny. The ram cuahrt in that thicket and Abraham and his son didn't see him."

Now, I would like to tell you something about that. My God is bigger than that. I believe that there didn't have to be a ram anywhere in that area

That God could have all of a sudden placed him there. Immediately..in the ~~the~~ ^{space} of a moment, placed that ram in that thicket. And that would have emphasized all the more the truth to Abraham that God can do any thing, at any time....The Bible simply says that Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked and the ram was there. He didn't search all over the area trying to find something...No...it was right there. God placed it there.. It is a wonderful ~~truth~~ truth.

Now, notice the last phrase of Vs 13: "in the place of his son"... The ram was offered in the place of his son....

Will you take your Bibles, please, and turn to Matthew 20 and I Timothy 2. And keep a finger in both places. Matthew 20 and I Timothy 2. And I would like to show you something very important relating the the Death of Jesus Christ.

We will look at I Timothy, first. And then Matthew 20....I Timothy 2:6 is the verse; and Matthew 20:28.

I Timothy 2:6 says, that Jesus gave himself...notice, voluntarily. He did this himself..."he gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time."

The phrase I would like you to notice: "a ransom for all" Now, turn to Matthew 20:28 and follow this carefully...."just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.".....In the Greek you have the definite article "the" before the word "many".....In other words, "the many who would believe on him..."

Is the Bible contradicting itself? In I Timothy it says, "a ransom for all"....And in Matthew 20:28, "a ransom for ^{the} many".....NOW WHICH IS IT?

Greek The answer is found in the prepositions which are found in the original language....In I Timothy 2:6 the word "for" means "in the behalf of".... So, when Christ died, he died "in the behalf of all men."

You ask me the question: "Did Christ die for all people?" YES,,,,, ABSOLUTELY...His death is sufficient to pay for all sin....He died in the behalf of all people.

Now back in Matthew 20:28 the little word "for" is not "in the behalf of"...But in Matthew 20:28 it means "in the ^{place} ~~stead~~ of"....The same thing that you have in Genesis 22...In the place of the many.....And there is all the difference in the world.

You see, many people believe that Jesus died on the cross. And some even come to the point where they understand that he died for all ^{people} ~~men~~. But it is no good for you, until you believe, you trust Christ alone, you accept Him as your Lord and saviour. And then it is "in the place of the many who believe on him."....Then his life is substituted for yours. The atonement applies to you. God then says, "there is ^{now} no condemnation to you." The penalty has been paid. Jesus' death is applied to you.

A person said, "Well, if Jesus died for all people, why do I have to do anything about it?".....

Well, that is the reason....His atonement is sufficient. But, the issue is..WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH IT?....Have you ever placed your faith and ^{TRUST} ~~truth~~ in it? If you haven't, there is no salvation for you. No matter how much you believe he died for all ~~men~~

It is only in the place of the many who believe on ~~him~~....You must trust Christ, alone, for your salvation.. And I may say you will do that today

(6C) Then finally, I would like you to notice back in Genesis 22 the significance of Abraham's responses. / And this responds in in two areas.

Two areas show me the significance of Abraham's responds.

(1D) Number one, in the provision of ^{the lamb} ~~the ram~~. And this I want you to see in Vs 8. According to the Bible Abraham says in Vs 8..."God will provide (for) Himself the lamb." The Bible does not say: "that God himself will provide a lamb"....It says, rather, "that God provide himself the Lamb."

Who said this?.....Abraham....And what a tremendous responds Abraham had to God. Because he knew that God would work it out, himself. God would provide himself.

And that is exactly what happened. Because when Jesus went to the cross he was God in human flesh. God was providing himself as the lamb.

John the Baptist said of Jesus, "behold the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."....God provided himself as that lamb.

(2D) Now, the second thing I see about Abraham's responds is in the promise of the Lord. That is in Vs 14 ...After Abraham has reviewed all of this he calls the place ...notice..."THE LORD WILL PROVIDE"" So, the place is now a constant reminder that God must bring salvation. God must do it. THE LORD MUST PROVIDE.. *Do You Believe God will provide in your Life -*

The more I try to provide, the more frustrated I am. You cannot provide for ^{SALVATION} yourself....You may go around thinking by the things you do that some how God is ^{going to save you} pleased with you. But, all the things that we do..that we call righteousness...are filthy rags in his sight....God will provide. And your trust must be in God, alone.... *For Salvat*

~~And~~ Jesus paid for all of our sin at the cross. And all people who ~~so call~~ ^{so called} have religious beliefs about Christ are divided into two camps. There are those who base everthing on human good....trying ^{to earn their way} ~~to do better for~~ God.... ^{already} And those who base everything upon what they believe. You see, it what you believe about Jesus and his death that saves you; not what you try to do ^{to earn favor} for ~~God~~....I can't get into heaven by what I do ^{or don't do} for him. I get into heaven by what I believe in Christ and what he has done for me.

And I ask you, what do you believe about Christ?....Either he is the saviour and it is over, it is done, it is finished, or we are lost ~~men~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ Our faith is in vain. { Jesus paid for all our sin....Come with all of your sin and lay it at the foot of the cross and say, "I believe, now, that Jesus died for me. I am putting all my confidence, all my trust in Him. I believe I am going to be in haven, not because of what I do, but because I have come to believe that Jesus paid for all my sins. If you believe that, you are going to be in heaven.....PRAISE GOD....

Issue of Comfort Let us close in prayer

*Christus - what about you? How much do you love Jesus?
How much of your life have you submitted to Him?*