



## TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

### Talk Genesis 22:9-14: The Ram as Substitute Sacrifice

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#### Lesson 48

*"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, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He 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; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."*

#### Background Notes

Most of us are aware that the Bible teaches truth in several different ways. Let me mention the "big three": by precept, by principle, and by picture. The Bible teaches us by precept or command, as in Luke 10:27: *"So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself."* These are precepts. These are commands!

The Bible also teaches us by principle. There are some principles here in this chapter, Genesis 22. First we see the principle that God will test our faith as he tested Abraham's faith, and second, the principle that we can pass the test of faith that God gives us. As verse 12 tells us, Abraham passed the test.

Another principle we see is that God will provide for us as He did for Abraham (v14). So the Bible teaches us by precept and by principle. But the Bible also teaches us by picture -- that is, by *spiritual* picture. This is especially true in the Old Testament. We call these Old Testament spiritual pictures "types."

A type, by definition, is "an Old Testament person, place, event, or other item which illustrates New Testament truth." This is probably the simplest definition you could give for a type.

Here in Genesis 22 we have an outstanding Old Testament type of the death and the resurrection of Christ. Notice, for example, that the phrase "Your only son" (v2 and 12) is used in reference to Isaac. This anticipates the phrase of the New Testament, "His only begotten Son." God gave His only begotten Son. John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* The same phrase is used in Hebrews 11:17: *"By faith Abraham, when*

*he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son...*" So in Genesis 22 we have an outstanding type of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

## **Doctrinal Points**

### **1. The sacrifice of Isaac is a type of the death of Christ.**

In Abraham, we have a picture of God the Father. As Abraham loved His son Isaac, so God loved His Son, our Lord Jesus. John 3:35 says, *"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand,"* and in John 5:20: *"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."*

Both of these verses are pictured here in Genesis 22. Abraham shared his thoughts with his beloved son Isaac, the promised heir into whose hand "all was given," as they walked together to the place of sacrifice with the wood and the fire.

As Abraham did not spare his own son, so God did not spare His own Son. Romans 8:32: *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"* God did not spare His Son, but delivered Him up for us all.

In Isaac we have a picture of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, willingly going to the place of sacrifice. *"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" (v9).* Isaac was at least a teenager at this point, and could have easily resisted being bound and placed on that altar. But he went willingly; he went voluntarily.

In John 10:17-18, the Lord Jesus said: *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."* That voluntary laying down of His life is pictured here in Genesis 22. The fact that Isaac willingly carried the wood for the sacrifice, as the Lord Jesus willingly carried His cross, may be part of the spiritual picture as well.

In Genesis 22, of course, Isaac was not actually sacrificed. The Angel of the Lord stopped the knife in Abraham's hand. However, in the case of our Lord Jesus the knife was not stopped. The Lord Jesus died as the sacrifice for our sins.

Notice in verse 11 that it was the Angel of the Lord who stopped Abraham, and calling out to him, "Abraham, Abraham." Now who specifically is the "Angel of the Lord"? In the Old Testament, the Angel of the Lord is none other than the pre-incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus Himself. The Angel of the Lord is not found in the New Testament; He is not mentioned because now the Son of God became incarnate. The Angel of the Lord stopped the knife here in Genesis, but the "knife was not stopped in the future when the Son of God Himself would be in the place of sacrifice. The sacrifice of Isaac is a *type* of the death of Christ.

### **2. The "receiving back" of Isaac is a type of the resurrection of Christ.**

If we only had the Genesis account, we might conclude that seeing the resurrection of Christ in this spiritual picture would be forcing the *type* too far! But we don't just have the Genesis account -- we have the inspired commentary on this event in the book of Hebrews. Let me read again Hebrews 11:17-19: "*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.*" (Some translations say "as a type" rather than "in a figurative sense." The meaning is the same.)

So the sacrifice of Isaac is not only a picture of the *death* of Christ, but it is also a picture of the *resurrection* of Christ. Isaac, then, becomes a *type* of the resurrected Christ in some of the chapters that follow Genesis 22. For example, in Genesis 24, when Abraham sent his servant out to find a bride for Isaac, we have a *type* of the Holy Spirit calling out the church as a bride for Christ, following His resurrection.

What a wonderful picture! The "receiving back" of Isaac is a *type* of the resurrection of Christ.

## **Practical Application**

### **Have you come to know God as Jehovah-jireh?**

Look at verse 14 once again:        "*And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide,<sup>1</sup> as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."*"

I'm sure you're all aware that God has revealed Himself in Scripture by a number of different names. These names reveal the character of God. Some of the names that God uses to reveal Himself are compound names, such as here, "Jehovah-jireh." Jehovah means LORD and is thus translated in many of your Bibles: "LORD." It's distinguished from another Hebrew word meaning "Lord" by using all capitals. Have you noticed that in your Bible? Most likely the correct pronunciation of this Hebrew name for LORD is "Yahweh" rather than Jehovah, but we will stick with Jehovah here because it is the better-known name.

Jehovah is the name by which God reveals Himself as the LORD who cares for His people and keeps His covenants with His people. Combined with "jireh," this compound name means, "The LORD will see to it" or "The LORD will provide." God provides for his people! Have you come to know God as "Jehovah-jireh" -- the God who provides for His people? As God provided for Abraham, God will provide for you.

The LORD let Abraham go right to the brink in this test of his faith, but He "provided" in the nick of time! God may do that with us. He may test our faith, even taking us right to the brink -- but He will provide! He is Jehovah-jireh! Whatever your needs may be, God will provide. Do you have needs? Do you have physical needs? Do you have emotional needs? Do you have family needs? God is Jehovah-jireh -- The Lord will provide.

Here's an illustration from my own life. Back in 1971 I left my job as a research scientist to serve the Lord full time. Our unwritten agreement with the Lord at that time was that as long as the Lord met our basic needs, we would assume that He wanted us to

stay in the ministry. Well, the Lord put us through a time of testing some years ago when we got down to our last fifty dollars. Now all our bills were paid, but it looked like I was might have to go back to secular employment to provide for our family. Margie had a bit more faith than I had at that point, and she said, "Wait a minute! We kind of agreed with the Lord that if we got down to *nothing* we'd start job-hunting!" So we prayed about this and left the matter in the Lord's hands, but we didn't tell anyone.

That very weekend I was the speaker at an out-of-town conference, and I will never forget what happened. It had never happened like that before, and it's never happened that way since, but as people were shaking my hand at the end of the conference, there were folded bills and checks in their palms as we shook hands. People tucked money into my pockets as I was leaving the church, and as I rode home on the plane I was pulling checks and cash out of my pockets! It was unbelievable. We had not shared our needs with anyone, only with the Lord, and God was proving Himself to us as Jehovah-jireh!

The Lord did see, and He did care, and He did provide. That's just an example in the area of the need of finances, but whatever your needs may be, bring them to God our Father, who is "Jehovah-jireh." Have you come to know God as Jehovah-jireh?