

March 14, 2010 AM

THE PICTURE

“Dress Rehearsal For Calvary”

Genesis 22:1-14

“My son God will provide form Himself the Lamb...”

Last week we saw the fountain that would be a crimson river of the blood of redemption that flows stronger and stronger till it strikes Calvary’s cross with all the might of God’s perfect will. Last week we saw the promise; today we look at the picture of the coming redemption.

There on Mt. Moriah, two mountaineers climbed high spiritually then anyone outside of Christ would climb.

Abraham: The mountain of submission.

Isaac: The mountain of sacrifice.

Jesus said, ***“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad.” (John 8:56)***

Abraham was glad that he could picture the day of redemption. Paul said, ***“...the gospel was preached to Abraham.” (Gal. 3:8)***

Isaac is an Old Testament picture, portrait, prophecy and projection of the day the Lord Jesus would die upon the cross as a substitute for our sin. Genesis is the seed bed of all Christian truth.

- Isaac’s birth was prophesied before he was born.
- His birth was a miraculous birth at the set time (Gen. 21:2-3).
- Isaac was named before his birth (Gen. 17:19).

The angel said to Sara who did not understand how she could have a child, “There is nothing too hard for God.” Those were also the words of the angel to Mary. “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” With God all things are possible!

- Isaac even pictures the resurrection power of God. Abraham told the servants, “We will be back.” **“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.” (Hebrews 11:17-19)** Isaac was raised figuratively. God had made a promise to Abraham and Abraham knew God keeps His promises.

I. The way of the cross.

A. Notice the place of the sacrifice. (vs. 3, 4, 9)

1. Moriah means: The place chosen by God or foreseen of God.
2. This place was not accidental but fundamental.
3. Before the foundation of the world, God saw the tiny spot where redemption would take place.

Why: This is the exact place where Jesus would die. This is the hill shaped like a soul where the place where the cross would stand. **“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.” (Luke 23:33)** Mt. Moriah is calvary.

II. The woe of the cross.

“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.’” (Genesis 22:4-5)

1. There was a place where only the father and the son could go.
2. The two servants, no matter how much they cared, could not go.
3. This prefigures dark Gethsemane.
4. The father and the son going further and alone. What must have been in Abraham’s heart as he walked up Calvary’s hill with his beloved son?

Almost every father here can understand a little of this. As David wished he could die for his son Absalom.

III. The willingness of the cross.

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. ⁸ And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.' So the two of them went together." (Genesis 22:6 & 8)

1. Isaac now knows he is the sacrifice.
2. I don't know how old Isaac was, but it would not surprise me if he were 33 years old.
3. Here is a young man that could have escaped this place.
4. Without saying it, he was saying to Abraham, "Not my will but yours, Father, is my desire."

***NOTE** They said of Jesus, "He saved others but himself he could not save." Oh how wrong! It was He Himself He would not save. He was no victim. He went with His Father willingly.

IV. The weight of the cross.

"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."
(Genesis 22:6)

Wood in the Bible speaks symbolically of humanity. I believe this wood speaks of the day when the sin of all humanity would be laid upon Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

"And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, ¹⁸ where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center." (John 19:17-18)

1. Jesus fell beneath the weight of the cross.

V. The work of the cross.

“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.’” (Genesis 22:9-11)

1. The cord was for binding. ***“He was bound.”***
2. The knife was for bleeding. ***“The nails that were placed in Jesus...”***
3. The wood was for burning. He was laid on an altar of wood. The binding, bleeding, burning power of sin was addressed on the cross of Calvary. ***“He who knew no sin, God hath made to be sin for us.”***
4. Jesus paid in full the penalty of our sin. God would allow Jesus Christ to die in our place. He took the binding, bleeding and burning of sin for us.

VI. The word of the cross.

“And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”
(Genesis 22:10)

1. God pours out illustration upon illustration.
2. Isaac was not to die. Why? Because, though he was a child of promise, he was not the promised Messiah. Only God in human flesh could be the perfect lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.
3. God Himself provided a ram, caught in a thicket, wearing a crown of thorns.
4. The angel said spare Isaac, take this ram.
5. How Abraham must have rejoiced for the ram.

The word of the cross is clear: God has provided a sacrifice for mankind!

This place is called: The Lord will provide.

God calls Mt. Calvary, "The Lord will provide...Jehovah Jireh."

Abraham called it this because the gospel had been preached to Abraham. He saw down through time until the incarnated God would Himself die for the sin of the world.

"It is said to this day!" (vs. 14)

Today we are reminded, not only of the promise, but of the picture!

"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." (John 3:16)