**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | An Old Testament Portrait of Christ |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 22 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2016 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The Old Testament tells of a time when Abraham and Isaac climbed Mount Moriah together for a very special offering.
      1. This was a foretaste, a dress rehearsal for Calvary.
      2. It was a picture, a prophecy, and an Old Testament portrait of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
   2. John 8:56
      1. Abraham saw Jesus and was glad.
   3. Galatians 3:8
      1. The Gospel was preached to Abraham.
         1. Abraham lived centuries before Jesus Christ was born in the flesh upon this Earth.
   4. Today’s message will examine the details of this special offering and how it is an Old Testament portrait of Christ.
2. A special person
   1. Isaac, the son of Abraham, was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. His birth was prophesied.
         1. Genesis 18:9-11
            1. Sarah’s womb was no longer productive.
            2. Abraham was presumably too old to father a child.
         2. Genesis 18:12-13
            1. Sarah laughed when she heard that she was going to be a mother.
         3. Genesis 18:14
            1. This is the key to the whole passage.

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

* + - * 1. This birth was prophesied.

Isaac was born of a miracle, just as the Lord Jesus was born of a miracle in His virgin birth.

* + 1. His birthdate was preset.
       1. Genesis 18:10
          1. God told Sarah and Abraham that his birth would be at an appointed time.
       2. Galatians 4:4
          1. The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world in “the fullness of time.”
    2. Isaac was named before he was born.
       1. Genesis 17:19
       2. Jesus was also named before He was born.
          1. Matthew 1:21
    3. Isaac was conceived by a miracle, just as Jesus was conceived by a miracle.
       1. Isaiah 7:14
       2. Our Jewish friends may wonder about our faith because we believe in a virgin-born Savior.
          1. But every Jew today is the result of a miracle birth.

When Abraham and Sarah had a son, that was a miracle.

Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 years old.

* + 1. Isaac was counted as Abraham’s only beloved son.
       1. Genesis 22:1-2
          1. “God did tempt” in this passage literally means “God did test” Abraham.
          2. “Take now thy son, thine only son whom thou lovest.”

This reminds us of the Lord Jesus.

John 3:16

* + - 1. Genesis 22:2-3
         1. God told Abraham to offer Isaac, who was conceived by a miracle and counted as Abraham’s only son, as a burnt offering.
         2. Abraham saw his son raised from the dead, not literally, but figuratively.
      2. Genesis 22:4
         1. Abraham and Isaac were going to the place of sacrifice.
         2. After three days, Abraham saw Mount Moriah afar off.

From the time that God had told Abraham to put his son to death until this point, it had been three days.

Just as the Lord Jesus was three days in the grave.

In the heart and mind of Abraham, Isaac was as good as dead for three days.

Hebrews 11:19

Abraham reckoned that if God wanted him to put Isaac to death, then God was going to have to raise him to life again.

Symbolically, Abraham received Isaac raised from the dead.

* 1. Isaac pictures Jesus.
     1. He is the son of prophecy and promise.
     2. His birth was at a set time.
     3. His name was given before he was born.
     4. He is conceived of a miracle.
     5. He is the only beloved son.
     6. He is offered up as a sacrifice.
     7. He is received from the dead.
  2. God placed an Old Testament Calvary here to show us that Calvary was not incidental nor accidental.
     1. Calvary was in the heart and mind of God for centuries before God created the universe.

1. A specific place
   1. God did not say to go to just any place, but to go to a very particular place.
      1. The place was Mount Moriah.
   2. “Moriah” means, “Foreseen of the Lord.”
      1. This was a particular place in the heart and mind of God.
   3. This is a vast universe.
      1. Out of all of the galaxies, God chose one galaxy: the Milky Way.
      2. Out of all the stars in our galaxy, God chose one moderately small star: our sun.
      3. God takes one of the planets revolving around our sun and said that it is His: the Earth
         1. Psalm 24:1
      4. Then, of this magnificent globe called Planet Earth, God takes a little piece of land on the edge of the Mediterranean and calls it His land: Israel.
      5. God takes one city out of this land and calls that city Jerusalem.
         1. This is the holy city.
      6. God continues to tighten the focus and takes one mountain in that city in that land on Planet Earth in that solar system in that galaxy.
         1. God takes that one mountain and calls it “My holy hill.”
            1. Psalm 2:6
   4. Moriah is Calvary.
      1. This is where the temple was built.
      2. This is where Jesus died.
      3. This is where God told Abraham to take his son and to sacrifice him there.
   5. Luke 23:33
2. A solemn purpose
   1. God tells Abraham to “Offer up your son.”
   2. Abraham and Isaac start up Mount Moriah.
      1. The others cannot go.
         1. God the Father and God the Son have gone places we will never know.
      2. This pictures dark Gethsemane as the Lord Jesus went to be alone with the Father.
   3. Imagine the suffering of Isaac.
      1. He saw his father had a fire.
         1. Abraham carried a torch with him.
      2. He saw his father had a knife.
      3. He can tell that there was a troubled look on his father’s face.
      4. Isaac is now beginning to understand that he is going to be the sacrifice.
         1. Isaac was not a little baby at this time, he was a strapping teenage boy.
         2. Abraham was well over 100 years of age.
         3. Isaac could have outrun Abraham, and he could have wrestled Abraham to the ground and overpowered him.
      5. Isaac allowed himself to be bound.
         1. As Jesus said in Gethsemane, “*Not My will, but Thine be done*.”
            1. Matthew 26:39
      6. Isaac did not refuse to be a sacrifice, just as Jesus laid down His life.
         1. Matthew 27:42
            1. Instead, it was Himself He would not save.
   4. Isaac went up that hill carrying his cross, as it were.
      1. Isaac is carrying, as it were, the wood of his cross up Calvary.
      2. The Lord Jesus laid aside the gold of His glory and took the wood of our wickedness and weakness.
         1. John 19:17
   5. The suffering of the cross:
      1. The cord speaks of the binding power of sin.
      2. The knife speaks of the bleeding power of sin.
      3. The wood speaks of the burning power of sin.
      4. All of these speak of all that Jesus would suffer on the cross for us.
         1. They foretell a time when God would lay His own Son upon a cross and raise the knife of His fierce wrath against sin.
   6. We cannot imagine what it must have been like for Abraham at that moment; to sacrifice his own son.
3. A sacred promise
   1. Abraham is ready to make the sacrifice.
      1. The angel of the Lord stops him.
      2. A ram is there to be Isaac’s substitute.
   2. Abraham names that place “Jehovah Jireh”
   3. That knife did not fall upon Isaac because one day it would fall upon Jesus.
   4. The scene shifts; Isaac is no longer a picture of the Savior, Isaac now becomes a picture of all of us.
   5. Isaac was destined to receive the knife, but then there was a change.
      1. There was a substitute for Isaac.
         1. There was a sacrifice that took his place.
      2. Abraham looked up, and there was a ram caught in a thicket.
         1. His horns were caught in a thicket of thorns.
         2. It was a lamb crowned with thorns.
      3. God told Abraham to take the ram and sacrifice it instead of Isaac.
         1. What a picture of Calvary and what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us!
   6. Genesis 22:14 is the sacred promise.
      1. What shall be seen? Calvary
         1. In the mount of the Lord, in this same place, God will provide Himself a Lamb.
            1. Moriah: “Foreseen of the Lord.”
   7. Now, we can understand what the Bible means when it says, “Abraham saw My day and was glad.”
      1. John 8:56
   8. Now, we can understand what the Bible means when it says, “*The Gospel was preached unto Abraham*.”
      1. Galatians 3:8
4. CONCLUSION
   1. “Moriah” means “Foreseen of the Lord.”
   2. God described Himself as Jehovah Jireh, which means, “The God who is sufficient; the God who will provide.”
   3. Do you know why God provided for Abraham?
      1. Because Abraham was willing to give back to God that which God had already provided to him.
      2. Who was it that gave Abraham Isaac?
         1. It was Almighty God.
      3. How could Abraham trust Isaac back to God?
         1. Because God had given him Isaac to begin with.
   4. Anything God has given you, you can trust Him with it.
      1. If God hasn’t given it to you, then you don’t need it anyway.
      2. Take everything you have and say, “Lord, it’s Yours.”
   5. It wasn’t Isaac that God wanted; it was Abraham.
      1. A man who could love Him and trust Him.
   6. God loves us so much that He did not spare His Son.
      1. Romans 8:32
      2. It is time that we love and trust our Father more.
   7. Bloody Calvary ought to kill any selfishness in us and fill our hearts with praise.
   8. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   9. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16