

The Christmas Files – Abraham and Isaac

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ...the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac...”

Text: Matthew 1:1-2, Genesis 22:1-18

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Christmas, God’s Provision

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Supplemental Text: Hebrews 11:19

Dr. David Crowe

The story of Abraham and Isaac challenges us to...

1) Submit to God in full _____ (vs. 1-8)

- A. Abraham rose early in the morning and did exactly as God asked him to do.
- B. Abraham had to step ahead in faith, not knowing how God was going to provide (vs. 8).
- C. God will test our faith and seek the same obedience.

2) Sacrifice your _____ (vs. 9-12)

- A. Verse 2 tells us that Abraham loves Isaac. This is the first time in the Bible that the word love is used.
- B. God was testing Abraham to see if He was really first place in Abraham’s heart (vs. 12).
- C. We have to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength.

3) Seek the Lord’s _____ (vs. 13-18)

- A. Abraham sought the Lord’s provision (vs. 8), saw the Lord’s provision (vs. 13), and signified the Lord’s provision (vs. 14).
- B. God provided a substitute ram for Isaac, and God has provided a substitute lamb for all of us in His son Jesus Christ.

Where is Jesus in this passage?

1. Jesus is the Angel of the Lord. He specifically speaks to Abraham and says, "...you have not withheld your only son from Me." (vs. 12)
2. The substitute ram is a picture of Christ who was our substitute on the cross. Because of the death of Jesus, we get to live.
3. Genesis 22:18 says "And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed My command." The offspring spoken of here is a direct reference to Jesus (Matthew 1:1-16)
4. Mt. Moriah later became the place where the temple was built and the city of Jerusalem was established. It is not outside the realm of possibility to consider that this altar where Abraham placed Isaac is the same exact place where Jesus was later crucified for our sins.

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message.

1. How did God test Abraham? (22:1-2)
2. What did God tell Abraham to do? (22:1-2)
3. How did Abraham respond to God's test? (22:3-10)
4. How did God spare Isaac's life? (22:10-12)
5. What substitute did God provide? (22:13-14)
6. What did God tell Abraham He would do because Abraham had not withheld his son? (22:15-18)
7. How does verse 18 connect to Christmas?
8. What other connections to Christmas do you see in this story?
9. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son?
10. What circumstances or events have tested your faith?
11. When and how has God tested your faith?
12. In what area of your life will you ask God to give you the strength to be obedient?