

## MESSIAH IN THE OT

JROC/Week 21 – The Ram and the Lamb (Gen. 22)

June 30, 2019

Regarding Gen. 22 and the ram (adult male lamb) caught in the thicket and how that fits in with God's promise of the lamb found in Gen. 22:8....

All the promises God made to Abraham depended on the survival of the promised son, Isaac (Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 17:9; 18:10, 14; 21:1-12). The fulfillment of God's promises depended on Isaac's survival. The extinction of Abraham's seed, Isaac, would be the end of the promise in Gen. 12:1-3. God is faithful. What He promises He delivers.

Abraham's faith was being tested (Gen. 22:1). Abraham's faith was being proven. Abraham was already a believer (Gen. 15:6). Genesis 22 is a picture of bold faith in action.

God had already told Abraham...

*My covenant I will establish with Isaac* (Gen. 17:21)

*... in Isaac your seed shall be called* (Gen. 21:12)

Did God set apart Isaac for a specific purpose? Isaac was sanctified. God set apart Isaac for a holy purpose – to accomplish God's plan.

YET, God told Abraham to offer Isaac up as a burnt offering.

Gen. 22:2 – God told Abraham – *Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.*

Father and son make the trek. When Isaac begins to wonder and asks his father about why they are not bringing a sacrifice to the land of Moriah, Abraham tells Isaac, *My son, God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering* (the Hebrew rendering) (Gen. 22:8). What type of offering is God requiring? A burnt offering. The purpose of the burnt offering – complete commitment to God (animals: bull, sheep, goat, birds).

We know from our study in Genesis 22 that the Angel of the LORD stops Abraham from killing Isaac (Gen. 22:11-12) and a ram is caught in the thicket. Abraham kills the ram in place of Isaac – as a “burnt offering” (Gen. 22:13).

There are many types of sacrifices...many animals offered as a sacrifice. The ram is offered as a trespass offering (Lev. 5:14ff; Lev. 6:1-6). How does this fit into what God is requiring? And, isn't Genesis 22 pre-law? Yes, we need to realize that Gen. 22 is pre-law. We also need to know that God is eternal and above time and space. In Gen. 26:5 – God said, *Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws* (during the pre-law timeframe)! AND, in Genesis 4 we are told that Cain and Abel each brought different offerings to the LORD. God's response is recorded in Gen. 4:4-5 - *And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering.* God unfolds His plan to us in Scripture. God's plan, however, is eternal.

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Let's look further at the trespass offering.

Lev. 5:15-16 – *If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of the Lord (those things sanctified to the LORD) then he shall bring to the LORD as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, and he shall make restitution (pay back)...in regard to the holy thing (that which was consecrated to God. Isaac was consecrated to God).*

Lev. 6:6 – *And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, a ram without blemish from the flock.*

A restitution/reparation was made through a trespass offering. Could Abraham's love for his long awaited son, Isaac, have been crowding out his love for God? Did Abraham love his son of the promise more than his God? The text does not make a statement along those lines. We know from Heb. 11:19 that Abraham concluded that God was able to raise up Isaac even from the dead. Was God, however, calling upon Abraham to offer up a trespass offering (provided by God in the thicket) as restitution?

God had already promised Abraham and Isaac that He Himself would be the Lamb for the burnt offering – in the future. Isaac's “near sacrifice” took place in the land of Moriah – in the area/mountains surrounding Jerusalem (II Chron. 3:1). This place, in the land of Moriah, had already been set apart for the complete sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus.

Because Isaac lived, because the trespass offering was killed in Isaac's place, the Messiah would come through the son of promise and be offered as the ultimate sacrifice.

*Lev. 7:1-2 – Likewise this is the law of the trespass offering (it is most holy): In the place where they kill the burnt offering they shall kill the trespass offering....*

- Ram – trespass offering
- Isaac was consecrated by God to God. God promised to establish His covenant through Isaac.
- A trespass offering had to be killed in place of Isaac. Isaac had to live.
- And a trespass offering must be killed where the burnt offering would be killed – which would be the perfect Lamb of God!