

## THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 8 – The Lamb and the Ram (Genesis 15:6; Genesis 22)

October 29, 2024

Marveling at the glory of God, at Who God is from understanding the big picture of Scripture, and responding with falling more and more in love with Jesus is what God desires! And, God's desires should be our desires!

*Jer. 9:24 - But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, ” says the Lord.*

*Gen. 15:6 — MOST SIGNIFICANT VERSE! After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, ‘Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ <sup>3</sup> Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’ <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.’ <sup>5</sup> Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ <sup>6</sup> And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

Was Abram's perspective different than God's perspective?

God was speaking of protecting Abram. Abram had just returned from warring with kings from the north who had kidnapped Abram's nephew, Lot. Abram rescued Lot.

What was Abram speaking of? Abram's focus: where is the son You promised me? God reminded Abram of His promises to Abram, specifically speaking of the son of promise through whom the Seed of the Woman would come. How did the reminder of God's promise connect with the stars? Was God's promise of making Abram a great nation with countless descendants.

God accounted Abram's belief in the Lord as righteousness. God declared Abram righteous. God placed Abram in a right relationship with Him!

How were Jewish people in the OT saved? There are those who answer that question with, “By the Law.” And I've responded with “NO!!! The law could NEVER save!”

*Rom. 3:20 - ...by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

*Rom. 7:7b - I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’*

Rom. 8:13 - *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh (our flesh; we can't even keep one commandment) ...what the law could NOT do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,*

God's promise of the Seed of the Woman remained INTACT!!! God continued to require a blood sacrifice. The people still awaited deliverance from God through the anointed One, the Messiah (Psalm 2)!

2

Based on Gen. 15:6, "Was Abraham's object of faith different than our object of faith – our object of faith being Jesus? Did Abraham trust in something else?"

There is only one way of salvation throughout Scripture: by grace through faith in God's revealed message – which always points to Jesus. Heb. 11:13, 16 - The author of Hebrews, inspired by the Holy Spirit, in listing MANY of the "OT saints" in Hebrews chapter 11 states, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.* They knew this world was not their home and that God was preparing a city (the new Jerusalem) for them [Eze. 40-48; Rev. 21 & 22]).

Gen. 15:1-6 – Considering the context of the Bible, it is believed that Abram was between 75 and 85 years old at the time of this passage. Having returned home from the battle against the kings who kidnapped Abram's nephew, Lot...and having rescued Lot, The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward. <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, 'Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup> Then Abram said, 'Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!' <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'This one (Eliezer of Damascus, Abram's servant) shall **not** be your heir; but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.' <sup>5</sup> Then He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' <sup>6</sup> And he believed in (to be certain of; to trust in; to stand firm in; to be assured of) ...Abram *believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness*. God credited Abram's belief in Him to Abram's life re: righteousness, justification, salvation. God placed Abram in a right relationship with Himself based on Abram's belief in God!

Gen. 16 - While Abram had no idea how God would accomplish delivering on His promises and giving him a son, Sarai had an idea!? Abram could have a child through Hagar, Sarai's servant (Gen. 16:1-2). Abram did NOT say no! Hagar conceived quickly. Sarai became jealous and treated Hagar badly. Hagar fled into the wilderness. And, lo and behold, who appeared? The Angel of the LORD!

Gen. 17 – Ishmael was born – Abram's son through Hagar. Abram's name ("Exalted Father") was changed to Abraham ("Father of Many Nations").

Gen. 18 – God and two angels appeared at Abraham's tent. God promised Sarah a son at the appointed time (God's time! Gen. 18:10). Abraham interceded for Sodom.

Gen. 19 – Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.

Gen. 20 – Abraham and Abimelech – De ja vu – ala Abram and Pharaoh (Gen. 12). Gen. 20:2 - *Abraham said of Sarah his wife, 'She is my sister.' And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.*

Gen. 21 – Isaac was born!!!! Hagar and Ishmael departed and traveled toward Egypt.

Gen. 15:6 flows into Gen. 22...

Gen. 22:1ff - *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!'* And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>2</sup> Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son Isaac,

3

*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.'*

Which son? Gen. 17:19-21 – *God told Abraham, ...your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac, and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.* <sup>20</sup> *As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.* <sup>21</sup> *But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.* Gen. 21:12 - ... *in Isaac your seed shall be called.*

God specified Isaac! Isaac was the son of promise. God's promises would come to Abraham and his physical descendants through Isaac! The promises depended on Isaac's survival!! And God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, his only son, whom he loved!!!!!!??? What message does that mirror? John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.* This was CERTAINLY a test! This was bold faith in action!

On the way up to the land of Moriah, God told Abraham that He/God would tell Abraham the mountain on which he should offer Isaac as a burnt offering. On the trail up the mountain, when Isaac mentioned having the fire and the wood but no lamb for the sacrifice, Abraham responded

with, *My son, God will provide HIMSELF the lamb for a burnt offering* (Gen. 22:8). "Provide" carries the meaning of presenting oneself. God HIMSELF would be the lamb!!

When Abraham and Isaac arrived on top of the mountain God had chosen...when Abraham bound Isaac and laid him on the altar, upon the wood...when Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son...the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, *Abraham, Abraham!* Abraham replied, *Here I am*. The Angel of the Lord 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*. Remember...it was God/God the Father Who told Abraham to take his son, his only son...

It was the Angel of the LORD who stopped Abraham from killing Isaac. It was the Angel of the LORD speaking as God in Gen. 22:12. NOTE: we see the Angel of the LORD appear in other books of the OT. The Angel of the LORD no longer appears after the incarnation of Jesus! I believe that the Angel of the LORD is a preincarnate appearance of Jesus. John 8:56-58 – ‘... *our father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*’ <sup>57</sup> *Then the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’* <sup>58</sup> *Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’*

The Angel of the LORD stopped Abraham from killing Isaac...and a ram was caught in the thicket. Abraham killed the ram in place of Isaac – a substitute for Isaac (Gen. 22:13) BUT, the ram was offered as a trespass offering for sin and guilt. (Lev. 5:14ff; Lev. 6:1-6). According to Lev. 7:2 - *In the place where they kill the burnt offering they shall kill the trespass offering.*

WHO was being tested through this sacrifice? Abraham.

Lev. 5:15-16 - *If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of the Lord, then he shall bring to the Lord as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks..., <sup>16</sup> And he shall make restitution....*

Lev. 6:6 – *And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, a ram without blemish from the flock.* What was Abraham’s sin? Loving his son too much? 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 God?

4

God had already promised Abraham and Isaac that He Himself would be the Lamb for the burnt offering (Gen. 22:8). This place, in the land of Moriah, had already been set apart for the complete sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus. Isaac’s “near sacrifice” took place in the land of Moriah – in the area/mountains surrounding Jerusalem (II Chron. 3:1).

Heb. 11:17-19 – and so this testing concludes with, *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, <sup>18</sup> of*

*whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,'<sup>19</sup> concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

The book of Hebrews tells us that Isaac was a type of Jesus.

Type – a foreshadowing of something yet future. More specifically, a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. When we say that someone is a type of Christ, we are saying that a person in the Old Testament behaves in a way that corresponds to Jesus' character or actions.

Isaac figuratively died and was figuratively resurrected.

And so, we do not see Isaac coming down from the mountain with Abraham! The next time we see Isaac in Scripture is in Gen. 24:62-67 - Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi\* for he dwelt in the South. <sup>63</sup> And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels *were* coming. <sup>64</sup> Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; <sup>65</sup> for she had said to the servant, 'Who *is* this man walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It *is* my master.' So she took a veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her.

WHY is the "almost sacrifice" of Isaac so monumental?

It was a test of Abraham's faith. Abraham received the Abrahamic Covenant from God which will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. Abraham had to obey GOD!

It was a foreshadowing of Jesus' death and resurrection.

\*Beer Lahai Roi...Whom did we meet at Beer Lahai Roi? The Angel of the LORD...to be continued!

### QUESTIONS

Did Gen. 15:6 and Gen. 22 become clearer? HOW?

Do you prefer going more slowly through the text?

How did these two passages impact you?

What are you going to do with them?!!

### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 8 with the Bible references.

Continue in your journal re: how you are realizing the glory of God in your daily life.

Pray about sharing these lessons with others and...share!

Begin to invite your Jewish friends to the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Chanukah/Christmas Celebration – Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Venue – SBC's Shea campus.

Read Week 9 when you receive it.