

Genesis 22: Abraham's Sacrifice 07-08-18 AM

The pinnacle of the story of Abraham is the sacrifice of Isaac. We are told in James 2:21-23 that this moment confirmed his faith, a faith that James points to from chapters before as being conceived by his belief in God's promise.

It is interesting to consider the significance of the location of the sacrifice. The Mountains of Moriah are identified as the same Mt. Moriah that Solomon would build the temple on in 2 Chronicles 3:1. That mount was purchased by David to build an altar to end a plague on Israel.

This great test was to confirm that Abraham loved God more than anything else, even his own son. God said *"For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me"*. That idea can be seen in the teaching of Jesus in Luke 14:26 when He says *"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple"*. We must love God above all things in this life.

It is often seen that Isaac is a form of Jesus in being sacrifices. We are told in Hebrews 11 that he is a type of resurrection, and he is spoken of as an only begotten son in the New Testament, just like Jesus. There is something to the idea that God put Abraham into the position of offering a similar sacrifice to that of His own.

But there is also something to the idea that we are like Isaac. Galatians 4:28 identifies Isaac with us. Consider the name of the mountain given by Abraham; the Mountain where God provides. The ram was what God provided, a lamb from God. Jesus is the Lamb of God, slain for us in our place. Thus we can see that Isaac is also an image of those for whom Jesus died.