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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 175 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

The promises of God never shine brighter than in the furnace of affliction. What two men did on a lonely altar would one day bring blessing to the whole world—especially the church! - Charles H. Spurgeon (about Gen. 22)

A. An Old Testament Illustration

1. The Command that Tested Abraham.

God called Abraham to offer up Isaac—the unthinkable command.

2. The Contradiction that Troubled Abraham.

The promise (“In Isaac your seed...”) vs. the command (“Offer him”).

3. The Calculation that Abraham Made.

He reasoned that God could even raise the dead. (Heb. 11:19)

4. The Compliance that Abraham Made.

Abraham shows immediate, unquestioning obedience.

5. The Confirmation that God Provided.

God stops the sacrifice, provides a different sacrifice, and reaffirms the covenant He made with Abraham.

“The Binding” • The Hebrew word “binding,” עֲקֻדָּה (ah-key-DAH) is the word THE TALMUD uses to title the story of Gen. 22 and the “binding” of Isaac to the altar.

B. A New Testament Incarnation

Across the centuries Christians have seen in these words a prefiguring of the death of Christ on the cross. There is Abraham (*representing God*) placing the wood (*representing the Cross*) upon Isaac (*representing Jesus Christ*). It is the father offering his son freely and without complaint, just as God the Father offered Jesus for the sins of the whole world. - Alexander Maclaren

Remarkable Parallels between Isaac and Christ:

1. Both Isaac and Jesus were sons of promise.
2. Both Isaac and Jesus were born miraculously.
3. Both Isaac and Jesus were called “only begotten.”
4. Both Isaac and Jesus had fathers willing to sacrifice them.
5. Both Isaac and Jesus had to carry wood on their backs.
6. Both Isaac and Jesus were given as a sacrifice.
7. Both Isaac and Jesus willingly and obediently participated.
8. Both events took three days.
9. Both Isaac and Jesus were “raised” on the third day.
10. Both, when raised, were given brides by which to bless.

C. An Eternal Insight

To this day, this passage has a special Hebrew name in Judaism: the *Akedah* (from אֲקָד [אָקָד H6123]), or “the binding of Isaac.” It was one of the most famous passages in OT Scripture, and it illustrates the mature faith and obedience of Abraham.
- Dr. Walter Brueggemann, IBC, p. 165.

In the *Akedah*, the faith of Abraham is honored for six reasons:

1. He believed God could even raise the dead.
2. He believed faith does not demand explanations, only obedience.
3. He believed as he obeyed, God would fulfill His promises.
4. He believed in the goodness and sovereignty of God.
5. This was a picture of the coming Messiah—the *perfect sacrifice*.
6. He believed, when in a time of testing, in listening to God's voice.