



*17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. (Heb 11:17-19)*

### **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity.**

*The Collect.*

**G**RANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the last few weeks, we have been concentrating on the parables of the Bible and words that have parabolic meaning. We will now turn to additional terms in Holy Scripture that reveal meaning beyond and above that which they possess in the natural use. Today we will examine a very real and significant TYPE of Christ represented in Isaac, the son of Abraham. In traditional and biblical theology, a type is interpreted as events, things or persons whose meaning or lives bear strong prophetic meaning to those of a later time, but especially to that of the life of Christ. If we observe the signal events in the life of Isaac, we cannot but see many sterling similarities of his life to those characteristics evidenced in the life of Christ. Isaac, as a type of Christ, is not the invention of imaginative theologians, but presented by God to aid in our understanding of the grace and mercy with which God has dealt with His people – Israel (the Seed of Promise and not the physical seed, necessarily, of Isaac). Abraham, in type, represents in human form the greater attributes of God. He was called out to be the founder of the Church of the Old Testament, having looked into the dimly-lit future to the coming of Christ as Redeemer and Savior. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. (John 8:56) He was taught and believed, as well the Gospel. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (Gal 3:8-9) So Abraham was a Christian! He is the figurative father of God the Father.

The promise of a righteous Seed was granted to Abraham and to his spiritual posterity (the believers of that promise). The promise was not made of a NATURAL Seed, but a Spiritual Seed that would issue by faith and not by biological genetics. So Abraham, after receiving the Call and Promise, was tried by God. God tries all who are called according to His purpose by various means, not to hinder, but to strengthen the called as well as to benefit those who will be awakened through them to life.

So God commands Abraham to do something, in type, that only God the Father could truly do – to sacrifice His only Son (whom he loved) on the mountain which the Lord would show Abraham. (That mountain was Mount Moriah, the same range upon which, 2,000 years following, the Lord Jesus Christ would offer Himself up for us).

He promised Abraham and Sarah a great number of descendents– and those descendents would come through the Promise of God. When both Sarah and Abraham grew very old (Sarah well beyond the possibility of bearing a child), God visited them with a son – Isaac. Isaac therefore came by miracle and not the strength of the flesh. As we all know, Jesus Christ, too, was born through the agency of a miracle– the Virgin Birth. Though Ishmael (the father of the Arab nations) was Abraham's firstborn, he had not come through God's will for a bona fide child to be born through Abraham's legitimate wife – Sarah. Sarah was above ninety years of age when Isaac was born. How Abraham and Sarah must have loved this only child. (Jesus Christ likewise is the only Begotten Son of God) But, in the process of time, God commanded Abraham to take Isaac to the Mountains of Moriah and sacrifice him. 1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (Gen22:1-2) Amazingly, Abraham uttered not a word of objection, but arose the very next day and embarked with Isaac on the three days journey to the place at which Abraham would receive his son as one as good as dead back into his hands. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (Heb11:11-13)

Abraham may be considered our earthly father through Isaac, yet his Father, and our Father, are the same loving God who gave His own only Begotten Son to die and be in the tomb for three days (just as Isaac was literally considered dead for those three days' journey). Abraham had no doubt that Isaac would be sacrificed, but no doubt either that God would restore him to his father. Isaac had been harshly treated and abused by the earthly seed of Hagar the bond woman, Ishmael. (Gal4:24, 25) So was Christ abused and harshly treated by the seed of the bond woman (the Jews). Isaac was led, as was Christ, as a lamb to the slaughter; only Isaac did not die, and Christ did become the sacrifice in his stead. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. (Gen 22:7-8) If you remember your grammar school English, you will realize that regardless how you diagram this sentence, God and Lamb are synonymous. God will provide Himself (Jesus Christ) as a

Lamb for the offering. Please note the subtle deception in hiding Christ's sacrifice offered by the corrupt NIV: "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." This NIV corruption of the original changes the subject to God only with a direct object of only a generic lamb. But the Received Text gets it right! What will God provide? Himself as a Lamb!

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Truly, Abraham offered Isaac to God, for anything that is placed on the altar is dedicated to God – and so was Isaac and his Seed of Promise. To Abraham, Isaac for those three days journey was as good as dead. How amazing that he trusted so much in God that he told his young men to wait a distance from the mountain of sacrifice and he and the lad would RETURN. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. (Gen 22:5) I hope you will see in this account the sure and certain fore ordained Will of God at work in revealing His love and grace to us through Isaac and Abraham.

Even in his marriage, the character of Christ is revealed through Isaac in base form. Isaac married one of his own kindred which Christ also did in taking of the same flesh of His Bride the Church. Rebekah, the bride of Isaac was wooed by his father's trusted servant, Eliezer, just as the Bride of Christ is wooed by the servants of God – His ministers. Rebekah forsook all – family, friends, familiar home – to become the bride of Isaac just as the Christian must forsake all for Christ. She adorned herself with fine silks and jewels for her bride just as the Church will be adorned for Christ. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21:2) This is not a stinky, hateful, worn-torn hovel in the Middle East, but the Heavenly, New Jerusalem. She went out to meet Isaac just as the Church shall meet Christ in the air.

Have you observed the amazing Finger of God at work in the lives of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Eliezer to bring the beauty of Christ into fuller light? God works through the father, the mother, the child, and the servant to accomplish His intended purposes for us. Has He worked through YOU?