

Abounding Grace Christian Church

Seeing Christ in the Old Testament: A Study of the Types of Christ – Part 2

I. Seeing Christ in the Book of Genesis (continued).

A. Noah, the Ark and the Flood – Genesis 6-8.

1. **Noah as a Type of Christ** - Noah, is often regarded as a type of Christ because God used him to be a savior and he was a righteous man in a world full of sin.
 - a. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (**II Peter 2:5**), and invited sinners to repentance in order to avoid the judgment that was coming (the flood). Christ also was a Preacher of righteousness, and came to call sinners to repentance so that they would avoid the final judgment (**Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; John 3:16-21**).
 - b. Noah's ministry was despised by the unbelievers and Jesus also was despised by the unbelieving Jews and others. Those that refused Noah's message were destroyed by water, and those who refuse the message of Christ will be destroyed eternally.
 - c. Noah built an ark and Christ builds his Church (**Matthew 16:17-18**).
 - d. All who didn't enter the ark, perished in the judgment of the flood. All who do not enter, and be a part of the Church, the body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:2-3**), shall be judged and perish eternally.

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” - Matthew 24:37-39

- e. The flood is a type of water baptism (**I Peter 3:20-21**). Water baptism is an outward illustration of a spiritual baptism into Christ. So, water baptism depicts the fact that we died and were buried with Christ, but we came through the water and rose to a new life in Christ. **“Passing through the water of baptism is symbolic of passing through a water of judgment.”¹**

2. The Ark as a Type of Christ.

- a. The lives of Noah and his family had to enter the ark in order to escape judgment. People must be in Christ in order to be saved from sin and eternal judgment.
- b. The ark had only one door. That door typified Christ, who says, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved” (**John 10:9**).
- c. God told Noah to cover the ark with “pitch” (**Genesis 6:14**). Note what Ervin Hershberger writes:

“This is the only place in the Bible where the Hebrew word kaphar (#3722) is translated ‘pitch.’ Strong defines it as meaning “to cover (spec. with bitumen); fig. to expiate or condone; to placate or cancel.” That same word kaphar is translated ‘atonement’ 70 times in the Old Testament. Therefore, the sealer that waterproofed Noah’s ark symbolizes the atonement by which believers are safely sealed in Christ.”²

B. Abraham and Isaac

1. As a Type of the Father God and the Lord Jesus – Genesis 22:1-19.

- a. Isaac is believed to be either a teenager or in his twenties.
- b. **Verses 1-2** – The obvious questions are, “Why is God doing this?” and “What kind of God would command a man to engage in the human sacrifice of his own son?”

¹ Leonhard Goppelt, *Typos: The Typological Interpretation of the Old Testament In the New*, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984), 157.

² Ervin N. Hershberger, *Seeing Christ in the Old Testament*, (Harrisonburg, VA: Vision Publishers, 2010)

- c. The Hebrew word for the word “**test**” means; “**to test**”; “**try**” or “**to prove**” – **Word Study Dictionary**.
- d. There is a difference between “**tempting**” and “**testing**”. The Bible makes it clear that God does not tempt His people with evil – cf. **James 1:13**.
- e. The difference between the two has a lot to do with the intention. A temptation is an enticement to do evil in order to cause us to stumble or fall. Satan is called the “**tempter**” – (**Matthew 4:1-3**). On the other hand, a “**test**” has the intention of causing a person to exercise their faith in order that their faith may be strengthened. **God tests us, not to find out what we'll do, but to bring out the best in us.**
- f. This test of Abraham was not meant to produce faith but to reveal (prove) his faith!
- g. **Verse 2 - “...your only son Isaac”** (cf. **verse 12**) – This means Isaac was the son of promise or the son of the covenant. Jesus is called the “**only begotten Son**” – **John 3:16**.
- h. “**...the Land of Moriah**” – “**The land of Moriah was the mountainous country around Jerusalem. It stood about 45 miles north of Beersheba. On these mountains God later appeared to David who built an altar to the Lord (2 Sam. 24:16-25). Here also Solomon built his temple (2 Chron. 3:1) and Jesus Christ died. A mountain was a suitable place for Abraham to meet God (cf. v. 14).**”³
- i. Finis Dake in his Annotated Reference Bible states; “**The land of Moriah means all the mountains of Jerusalem – Calvary, Zion, Olives, Moriah, and others. Calvary is the highest peak and it was perhaps on this mount that Isaac was offered as a type of Christ. All that is stated here is upon one of the mountains which God would show him...**”⁴
- j. **Verse 2 (continued) - “...and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”**
- k. **Verses 3-4** – Finis Dake states here; “**The early rising, saddling, cleaving the wood, and going 3 days journey to slay his only son of promise proves his deliberate and complete obedience.**”⁵ We may also take note that there is no indication that Abraham hesitated or even asked a question about doing this. It's possible that it was omitted but it seems very clear that Abraham's faith has grown tremendously over time.
- l. **Verses 5-6** – Abraham and Isaac go on alone, leaving the two servants behind. Note the words of faith from Abraham; “**...we will come back to you.**” Remember God's specific promise concerning Isaac in **Genesis 21:12**. (cf. **Hebrews 11:17-19**).
- m. **Verses 7-8** – Isaac's big question and Abraham's answer. This question must have really cut Abraham's heart. Abraham's answer was, again, a great expression of faith. Bob Utley states:

“**The phrase ‘God will provide’ later becomes a name for God in v. 14. We have seen how common it is for the acts of God to result in a new name to describe His character and actions. The Hebrew term ‘will provide’ is really ‘will see to it’, but it came to be used in this specialized sense (the One who sees is the One who provides).**”⁶

- n. Regarding Abraham's response, the NIV Study Bible says;
- “**The immediate fulfillment of Abraham's trusting response was the ram of verse 13, but its ultimate fulfillment is the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36).**”⁷ (Remember in **20:7**, God called Abraham a “**prophet**”.)
- o. **Verse 9** – In this verse, we not only see the faith of Abraham but also the faith of Isaac. As stated before, Isaac was either a teenager or in his twenties. Whatever the case was, Isaac was well able to resist his father if he so desired. Isaac allowed his father to tie him up which is the meaning of the word, “**bound**”.

³ Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Genesis* (<http://www.soniclight.com>: Sonic Light Publication, 2024), 320.

⁴ Finis Dake, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible* (Lawrenceville, GA.: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1963), 19.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Robert Utley, *The Patriarchal Period: Genesis 12-50* (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons Intl., 2009), 130.

⁷ *NIV Study Bible*, (Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1985), 38.

- p. **Verses 10-11** – Apparently, based on the meaning of the word, Abraham was about to cut Isaac's throat like he would a sacrificial lamb. The Angel of the Lord stopped him. (This was probably the Lord Himself as most scholars seem to believe the phrase "Angel of the Lord" refers to – cf. 16:7, 9, 10, 11).
- q. **Verse 12** – Didn't God already know what Abraham was going to do? Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe write:

"In His Omnipotence God knew exactly what Abraham would do, since He knows all things (cf. Ps. 139:2-4; Jer. 17:10; Acts 1:24; Heb. 4:13). However, what God knows by *cognition*, and what is known by *demonstration* are different. After Abraham had obeyed God's command, he demonstrated what God always knew, namely, that he feared God."⁸

- r. **Verses 13-14** – God provides a Ram as Isaac's substitute and a New Name for God – "Yahweh-Yireh" or "Jehovah Jireh". This means; "The Lord will see to it"; "The Lord will Look out for" or "The Lord Provides."

2. **Summary:** As we've seen there are many parallels between this event and the coming of Christ and His sacrifice for our sin. (Adapted partially from unpublished notes by Bill Scheidler).
 - a. The sacrifice would be at God's appointed place on a mountain (**Genesis 22:2; John 19:17-18**).
 - b. The sacrifice would be something that took place between the father and the son (**Genesis 22:5-6; John 16:32**).
 - c. The sacrifice was performed by the father (**Genesis 22:3 with Isaiah 53:10; Acts 2:23; 4:28; Romans 8:32; I Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8**).
 - d. The sacrifice was a whole burnt offering, a total sacrifice (**Genesis 22:3; Hebrews 10:8-10**).
 - e. The sacrifice would involve a three day journey (**Genesis 22:4; I Corinthians 15:3-4**).
 - f. The one sacrificed would carry the wood for the sacrifice (**Genesis 22:6; John 19:17-18**).
 - g. The son totally yielded to the will of the father (**Genesis 22:6; Isaiah 53:7; John 14:31; Hebrews 10:7-10**).
 - h. The son freely laid his life down (**John 10:17-18**).
 - i. The sacrifice was carried out with resurrection in mind (**Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:17-19; Luke 18:33**).
 - j. The sacrifice of the lamb would be made in the stead of another (**Genesis 22:13**).

⁸Norman L. Geisler and Thomas Howe, *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1992), 52.