

Genesis 19-26

Isaac

Review:

- God chose to partner with Abram
- He makes (or cuts) a covenant with Abram
- the covenant was:
 - binding
 - inter-generational
 - not to be overridden by a newer covenant
 - breaking it has consequences/breaking it requires atonement
 - came with a sign (in this case circumcision)
- Biblical covenants have provisions, obligations and signs and for Abram these were
 - provisions: posterity, inheritance, land, greatness, blessing, universal blessing
 - Obligations: faith and faithfulness
 - Sign: circumcision

- God chose Abram to be his partner, and through his seed bless all the nations of the earth
- God renames Abram - Abraham
- We finished off discussing what Abram is like....the character of one who is hospitable, comes to the defense of others (specifically sinners) and we used Abram's pleading on behalf of the flagrant sin and wickedness of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (we see that a great outcry has reached God) pleading that God will not destroy them if he finds even 10 righteous

Gen 19 Sodom & Gomorrah

- We pick up right there with that very evening 2 angels coming to the entrance of Sodom
- Lot, sitting at the city gate, practices the hospitality that reminds us of Abram and he welcomes them and invites them to his home.
- An argument ensues: they want to stay in the city square, Lot insists they return home with him. It seems that Lot is trying to keep them from the danger of the city by hiding them in his home and sending them off early
 - Lot "wins" and prepares a feast, but that night the men of Sodom surround Lot's house and demand the men be brought out so they can have sex with them
- READ v 4** (notice the text is emphasizing this is all of the men, young and old)
- word for sex is "Know" a sexual euphemism
- Lot pleads with them not to do this wicked thing and then, horrifyingly, offers his two virgin daughters (this story is going to show up again later almost identically to this one and will also be followed by judgement)
 - We have assumed Lot is "good" but even if we assume he follows ancient middle eastern hospitality (modern day Pashtun tradition of protecting guest over self) this is a horrifying offer

- possibly trying to show how awful their demands are
- maybe he even believes if the mob carries out their wickedness against his guests God will rain down immediate annihilation
- The mob will have their way so the angels intervene
- they pull Lot inside, bolt the door, and blind the men
- angels true nature (that they are angels) is revealed**
- The angels then urgently insist that Lot grab his family and run
- v.13 *"the outcry against this place is so great that it has reached the LORD, and he has sent us to destroy it."*
- angels now reveal their assignment**
- Lot hurries to tell his families, his daughters' fiances don't believe him, he still hesitates and drags his feet so the angels grab their hands and run them out... and he escapes with wife and daughters only
- the angels instruct them to run and not look back
- God rains down judgment in the form of fire and sulfur
- This brings us to a much debated portion of Scripture....
- *God is raining down fire because...he's mad? Discuss other options**
- And Lot's wife turns into a pillar of salt because she accidentally looked at the fire falling out of the sky?
 - remember the conditions of the people of this city (ALL the men)
 - Lot's wife did disobey
 - but the "looking back" was not just a glance
 - the language suggests she might have gazed intently...even affectionately toward what she had left**
 - whether she turned into a literal pillar of salt, it was a supernatural transformation, or a poetic way of saying she was caught up in the fire and destruction herself, we don't know. We just know that God does not allow her sin to stand
 - immediately we will see that Lot's daughters also make choices consistent with a lack of faith in God that reflects the immoral and godless culture they were part of
 - text says that Lot and his daughters go to hide/live in a cave and they are worried they will never marry so they get their father drunk and have sex with him so they can bear children
 - both daughters become pregnant and name their sons Moab and Ben-ammi
 - from these babies come the Moabites and Ammonites
 - People who the future Israel will be forbidden to intermarry with the incestuous offspring of Lot and his daughters

Gen 20

- Now the story reverts back to Abraham, moving south to the Negev (MAP) Where he is a foreigner
- and we have an interesting story of Abraham, as a foreigner, being afraid that he will be killed in order to get his wife Sarah (she is beautiful)

-he decided instead to say she is his sister so Abimelech, the king of Gerar, has her brought to his palace

-God speaks to him in a dream and tells him he is a dead man because she's already married, and Abimelech insists he didn't know she was married and God declares that he kept Abimelech from sinning

-God then instructs Abimelech to return Sarah to her husband and have him pray for him because he is a prophet

-Abimelech expresses his frustration with Abraham for lying to him **but then gives him sheep, goats, cattle and servants with the return of Sarah**

-Abimelech then **commissions Abraham** to watch over his land AND compensates Abraham 1,000 pieces of silver

-v. 17 Then Abraham prayed and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his female servants so they could have children

v. 18 tells us *"for the Lord had caused all the women to be infertile because of what happened with Abraham's wife, sarah"*

-the obvious thing to note here, is that Sarah must have been in Abimelech's household for a while before God appeared to him in a dream.

-long enough to realize the women couldn't bear children (you don't realize that in days, or even weeks)

-Abimelech, with his army commander as witness, asked Abraham to swear that he would never deal falsely with him or any of his offspring ever again.

-Abraham agreed.

-Before we see Abimelech again, **Genesis 21** begins with the birth of Isaac (Itz Hock) the promised child to Abraham and Sarah

-the Text tells us that the Lord kept his word and did what he promised AND that he did it at **JUST THE TIME he said**

-Isaac is circumcised at 8 days old (Abraham is 100)

-while this is incredibly joyful, Abraham and Sarah have created a problem for themselves trying to make God's promise come to pass (Abraham sleeping with Sarah's maidservant Hagar and Hagar having a son: Ishmael)

-Sarah sees Ishmael making fun of her son (Ishmael is now likely 14)

-Sarah demands for the "slave woman and her son" to be sent away

-this is very upsetting to Abraham (Ishmael is his son too)

-but God reassures him that Ishmael will be ok, but to do what Sarah says because Isaac is the son through whom the promised descendants will come

A WORD ABOUT ISHMAEL V ISAAC

-who is Hagar? (Gen 16:3)

-who is Ishmael today? Who is Isaac today?

-but God also promises that Ishmael will be a great nation too

-Hagar is sent away and she and Ishmael wander into the wilderness of Beersheba

-when water was gone Hagar puts the boy under a bush and then she went about 100 yards away so she didn't have to watch him die

[-v 17 **brings up the confusion that Joshua mentioned last week angel, or God?**

Is it an angel of God who talks to her but God who heard the boy crying and God who blesses the child?]

[discussion]

-The point is that God heard the boy crying and Hagar is reassured her that her son would become a great nation...**this gives us "shelf space" to begin understanding the trinity and helps us to understand the character and identity of God**

-this is interesting that God heard....earlier when we met Hagar she called God "El-Roi" the God who sees

-now we **know he sees AND hears**

-then a well of water "appeared" and Hagar and the boy both drank

-Ishmael settles in the wilderness of Paran and marries a woman from Egypt

-**Later in ch. 21** Abimelech appear again: Abraham complains to him that his servants had seized a well of water

-That was news to Abimelech

-Abraham took sheep and oxen and made a covenant with Abimelech

-By accepting the sheep Abimelech agreed that Abraham had dug the well

-The covenant was made

-**They called the place Beer-sheba. "Beer" means "well;" "Sheba" could mean "oath" or "seven."**

-Then Abimelech and his commander went back to the land of the Philistines and Abraham planted a tamarisk tree (shade and dew)

Chapter 22

-This brings us to the chapter of Abraham's faith being tested

-much speculation over how old Isaac was, in general since the text doesn't tell us, we have to assume it is not relevant to our understanding of the text

-but with some clues (from when Isaac is weaned to when Sarah dies) he is at least 10 and as old as 37

-but the journey, the climbing of Mt. Moriah and carrying of firewood lend older, at least a healthy teenager, more likely even around 20

-the point being, he could have easily fended off his 100+ year old father, but instead, Isaac trusts his father and allows himself to be bound and placed on the altar (v. 9)

-Let's just pause and remember, this is the promised son (the other one was sent away)

-the promise seems to be in jeopardy

-**Why does Abraham raise the knife to kill his son?**

DISCUSS

-obedience? Yes

-trust? Yes

-something else you should know: it is not unusual in ancient cultures for gods to expect the firstborn son as a sacrifice

-speculations: could Abraham have assumed God would raise Isaac from the dead?
(Hebrews 11:19 tells us this is the case)

-God would provide another son?

-But v. 11 tells us the “angel of the Lord” stops him saying: *“for now I know that you truly fear God”*

-a ram appears, caught by its horns and it becomes the sacrifice

-The angel of the Lord then reaffirms that **as a result of Abraham’s obedience, God promises to bless Abraham, multiply his descendants and through his descendants, bless the whole earth**

ASK: Why did God put Abraham through this?

-to validate him as father of all who have faith in God

-a test of his faith

-to provide an example of absolute obedience

-to reveal God as Jehovah -Jireh (provider)

-God’s command to sacrifice Isaac was to foreshadow God’s sacrifice of His own Son

Wait, how do we know that?

-let’s talk about **Mt Moriah** for a minute

-MAP where is it?

-fast forward for second to look again at Mt Moriah and what we know about this patch of ground

-Gen 22 tells us it is the place where Abraham took Isaac to sacrifice him (God told him to go to the land of Moriah, to the mountain he would show him)

-1,000 years later it is the land that David buys (the threshing floor of Arunah) **2 Sam 24/1 Chron 21** (explain David’s census)

-**1 Chron 22:1** says it is the location for the Temple of the Lord (David was not permitted to build this so Solomon would)

-This Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and 70 years later was rebuilt

-in the 1st century AD, Herod adds on to the Temple Mount

-and it is very near here that the Father, provides the Son as a sacrifice

-In AD 70 Roman armies (led by Titus) destroy it again

*all that remains of the Temple Mount from that era is a portion of the remaining wall (Western Wall) **PIC**

-Today the Temple Mount is under Muslim control and is the 3rd most holy site

- But a Third Temple is sacred in Judaism, and is anticipated as the most sacred place of worship for
- Prophets in the Hebrew Bible called for its constructions to be fulfilled prior to or in tandem with the Messianic age
- You can imagine, this causes immeasurable conflict
- **It is still Ishmael and Isaac fighting today**

-Let's bring today's **Through the Bible** to a close with one more story

-We are breezing over **Gen 23** where Sarah dies and **Gen 24** where a wife is found for Isaac (from Abraham's own family!)

In Gen 25 Abraham dies, giving everything he owns to Isaac

***Note: Isaac and Ishmael TOGETHER bury their father**

-Shortly after this we see descendants of Ishmael listed

-And then we have the births of Jacob and Esau to Isaac (Joshua will tackle Jacob's story next week)

We will end today with **Gen 26**

-This is the only chapter in Genesis devoted exclusively to Isaac (he's mentioned in other chapters but he's not the focus of attention)

-This is a strangely familiar story to one we've looked at already tonight:

-Because of a famine, Isaac goes to Gerar where God promises to protect him

-Abimelech is king (probably not the same Abimelech)

-the first few verses are a reiteration of the Abrahamic covenant (God's promises to Abraham's descendants)

-when Isaac is asked about his wife he says she is his sister

-Yet, one day Abimelech looked out of a window and saw Isaac fondling Rebekah.

-He confronted Isaac about her being his wife.

-Isaac also said that he was afraid he would be killed because Rebekah was so attractive.

-Abimelech was very upset and warned all the people, saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall be put to death."

-where have we heard this story before?

-and why are we hearing it again?

-the servants of the Philistines become jealous of Isaac's wealth (v.14)

-Philistines fill Isaac's wells with dirt (wells that had been dug by his father Abraham)

-Abimelech orders Isaac to leave the country (Isaac had become too powerful)

-Isaac settles in Gerar valley

-he reopened the wells his father had dug and he restored the names Abraham had given them

-next Isaac digs a new well but shepherds from Gerar come and claim the water

-so Isaac walked away

-Isaac dug a second well, again there was quarreling, so Isaac moved on

-the third well there was no dispute, but the bible also doesn't say there was water in it!

- Next Isaac moves on to Beer sheeba and God appears to him, repats the promises that were made to his father Abraham and Isaac digs another well
- Soon, Abimelech went to him, offering peace.
- In the morning they exchanged oaths, and Abimelech departed in peace
- and that day, Isaac's servants came and told him they found water!

*Let's look at the parallels between Isaac and Jesus:

Isaac seems to be a type of Christ in the Old Testament

What is a type?

- Typology is a special kind of symbolism
- We can define a type as a "prophetic symbol" because all types are representations of something yet future
- a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament
- hence the concept/truth or even *fulfillment* in NT is *familiar* due to its introduction in OT
- Caution: Illustrations (finding correlations) is different than typology which NT should itself support

Isaac a precursor or type of Christ:

1. Both fulfilled **PROMISES**:

Isaac was the long-promised son to Abraham (Genesis 12:3)

Jesus was the long-promised Messiah and Son of God (Genesis 3:15; 13:3, John 1:1-12)

2. Both were the **ONLY SON** of their father:

God said that Isaac was "Your son, your only son, whom you live..." to Abraham (Genesis 22: 2)

God said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!" (Matthew 3:16, 17).

3. Both had a **MIRACULOUS BIRTH**:

Isaac was born to parents who were very old - Genesis 18:13.

Jesus was born of a virgin, Mary, and conceived by the Holy Spirit - Luke 1:34-35.

4. Both had a conception and birth that was **PRE-ANNOUNCED** - Genesis 18:10 & Luke 1:30-31.

5. Both were **NAMED** before their birth - Genesis 17:19 & Matthew 1:21.

6. Both were **MOCKED** and persecuted by their own kindred - Genesis 21:9 & Mark 15:29-32.

7. Both were **UNDESERVING** of their sacrificial death - Genesis 22:2, Luke 23:41.

8. Both were sacrificed near the very **SAME PLACE** - Genesis 22:3 & Matthew 27:33.

9. Both were **LOVED** by their fathers (Genesis 22:2; Matthew 3:16, 17).

10. Both had a **THREE-DAY** experience:

Isaac had a 3-day hike to Mt. Moriah.

Jesus had 3 days from the cross to the grave to the resurrection.

11. Both WERE accompanied by **TWO MEN**:

Isaac by two servants (Genesis 22:3)

Jesus by two thieves (Matthew 27:38)

12. Both carried their own **WOOD**:

Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice (Genesis 22:6).

Jesus carried the crossbeam of his cross (John 19:17).

13. Both **SUBMITTED** to their father:

Isaac willingly laid down his life, submitting to his father (Genesis 22:9).

Jesus submitted to his Father's will and laid down his life for our sin (Luke 22:42, Romans 5:8).

14. Both asked a **QUESTION** of their father:

Isaac asked Abraham "Here is the fire and the wood, Father, but where is the lamb?" (Gen. 22:7).

Jesus cried "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" from the cross (Matthew 27:46).

15. Both were **BROUGHT BACK** from the dead:

Isaac was "brought back" figuratively (Genesis 22:12) by the faith of Abraham.

Jesus rose from the dead 3 days after he was crucified (Matthew 28:6-7).

*technically, Isaac could be argued as NOT a literal type of Christ because Jesus is sacrificed and Isaac is not (the ram is) but the comparisons are still stunning

Final things to THINK ABOUT:

There are no accidents or coincidences within the will of God.

The story of Abraham and Isaac was given to us to show us God's coming plan of salvation through sacrificing His only Son, Jesus, for our sin.