

A Step In the Walk of Faith

Gen. 22:1-19 (esp. vv. 8, 14); Gen. Chps. 12-22

- 1 Genesis chapter 22 is a very important chapter in the experience of Abraham in his walk of faith. the Lord God who spoke, revealed and covenanted Himself with Abraham as Yahweh [Ever-living, Never-changing, Faithful One] is the same Lord who revealed Himself as El Shaddai [Infinitely Self-sufficient, Infinitely Self-sustaining, Infinitely All-satisfying] (Gen, 17:1-8), Almighty God who is Le Elohim [Gen. 17:7-8 I will be their God {Elohim}; who stands for Elohim] of Abraham and all of those who live by the faith of Abraham. (This Yahweh is no other than the Lord Jesus Christ who is the "I AM" [Ever-living, Eternal Life, there is never a time when He is not] in Exodus chapter 3 and in John chapter 8 verse 58)
- 2 In Genesis 22, this Yahweh (El Sahddai, le Elohim) who revealed Himself to Abraham as "Jireh". "Jireh" means "will provide", He will provide. The translation is not precise. Why? Because in the Hebrew language, there are only two kinds of verbs; one is the perfect form and the other is the imperfect form, or a continuing action. In the Old Testament, whenever a verb is preceded by will or shall, it is in all cases in the imperfect form. The phrase "will provide" in Hebrew means a continuing action. He is continuously providing. Therefore Yahweh Jireh means the Lord who continuously provides.
- 3 In Genesis chapter 12, Abraham and Sarah are past their prime and they could no longer bear a child. Abraham was 75 years old, while Sarah was 65 and barren. Yahweh, i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ called Abraham to leave Ur and go to a place where the Lord would lead Him. And if he would obey, the Lord would make him a great nation, bless his name, and he will be a blessing to many nations. His posterity will be as numerous as the sand in the seashore and stars in the heavens. Those who bless him will be blessed by Yahweh and those who curse him will be cursed by Yahweh.
- 4 Now Abraham obeyed God. His obedience was a step of faith. Because when one trusts God, he should obey Him. Twenty four years have lapsed and the promise for them to have a child was yet to be realized. And finally when Abraham reached 100 years of age, A child, named Isaac was born to them. Isaac would not only inherit all the riches of Abraham, but he would also be the propagator of the seed of Abraham as the fulfillment of the Lord's promise.
- 5 When Isaac grew as a lad, The Lord Jesus Christ asked Abraham to offer up Isaac, his only beloved son, as a burnt offering to Him. Abraham did not wonder even at the first instance. Secondly, he did not hesitate, and thirdly he trusted God.
 1. He did not question the Lord. While others in the same situation as Abraham would most likely ask the Lord; Why would you give something you would take back later? But Abraham did not, because he knew the Lord was the owner of his and his son's life (Acts 17:25). The Owner of life has the prerogative over all of His own. "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21); "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him (Job 13:15).
 2. Abraham did not hesitate. Though seemingly contradictory where God seems to say one thing and seems to do another thing, yet Abraham obeyed God-"let God be true and every man a liar. (Rom.

3:4). He took with Him his servants and brought along the firewood he would use to make a burnt offering of pleasant aroma to the Lord. They journeyed to Mt. Moriah which is Golgotha or Calvary today where Abraham would offer his son Isaac. This is the same place where the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified 2000 years later.

3. Abraham trusted the Lord. When they reached the foot of mount Moriah, he told his servants to stay behind and said, "Stay, for I and the lad will go up and worship the Lord and we will come back." Why was such the statement of Abraham when in fact, He knew he would slay his son and offer him up as a sacrifice to the Lord?

- 1.) **Heb. 11:17-19** By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, *Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*
- 2.) **Rom 4:17** (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.)
- 3.) The Lord would provide for him. Isaac bore on his back the firewood that would be used for the burnt offering. When they were near the place, he asked his father Abraham; "Father, where is the sacrifice?". Abraham answered, "The Lord will provide for us a lamb." But Abraham knew he would slay his son as a sacrifice. When they arrived at the place, Abraham set the firewood and tethered Isaac and laid him over the heap of wood. Isaac did not rebel his father but obeyed him willingly. When Abraham stretched his hand and was about to lunge the knife to slay his son, the Lord prevailed over him and said; Do not harm your son, because now I know that you fear the Lord and you did not withhold from me your only son. Abraham turned his head and saw a ram whose horns were caught in the thicket. The Lord provided the sacrificial lamb even before Abraham had a need of it. Yahweh Jireh - **Even in the everlasting covenant (Heb. 13:20), even from the foundations of the earth, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29) has been provided by God to be the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.** Jesus took our place in that vicarious sacrifice for us, the just for the unjust.

- 6 **Yahweh-Jireh (Yireh) – Yahweh Sees/Yahweh Provides.** There is an allusion to this name of Yahweh in Gen. 22:8—"God will provide Himself a lamb.." but the name appears in the Old Testament only once in Genesis 22:14 by Abraham to memorialize God's intervention in the sacrifice of Isaac by providing a substitute for the sacrifice of his

son. How is the word "to see" translated to mean "to provide"? 19th Century Anglican pastor H. W. Webb-Peploe wrote, "to see is also to **foresee**. As the One who possesses eternal wisdom and knowledge, He knows the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:10) . . . From eternity to eternity He foresees everything. . . . Thus with God foreseeing is **prevision**. As the Jehovah of righteousness and holiness, and of love and redemption, having prevision of man's sin, and fall, and need, He makes **provision** for that need. For provision, after all, is merely a compound of two Latin words meaning "to see beforehand". And we may learn from a dictionary that "provide" is simply the verb and "prevision" the noun of seeing beforehand. Thus, to God prevision is necessarily followed by provision, for He certainly **will** provide for that need which His foreseeing shows Him to exist. With Him prevision and provision are one and the same thing."

- 7 The offering of Isaac brings several types of the offering of God the Son for the sin of the world.
 - a) As Isaac was saved from death by the ram whose horns were caught in the thicket by his thorns, in the same way, God provided the only sacrifice for the sin of the world-the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Instead of us dying for our sins as payment of our sins, Jesus Christ, God the Son who came in the flesh in full obedience to the Father, offered Himself in a vicarious death upon the cross at Mt. Calvary or Mt. Moriah.
 - b) Isaac carried the firewood unto which he is to be laid and killed just as Jesus carried His cross unto which He was laid and nailed to die on the cross.
 - c) Just as Isaac willingly offered Himself to be laid on the firewood, Jesus willingly offered Himself to be the only sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. When he was denounced, railed, oppressed, afflicted and rejected by the people, Jesus did not open His mouth. "As a lamb He was led to the slaughter, as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins (Heb. 10:4) so Jesus offered His body unto death upon the cross and by the blood of His cross, He reconciled all things unto Himself. (Col. 1:20)
 - d) Just as Isaac was received from the dead in a figure, the Lord Jesus Christ also rose from the dead on the third day, He being the resurrection and the life that now whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have an everlasting life.
- 8 Believing is not just a mental assent but also an actualization or putting into action what one believes. This is believing and living by faith. Jesus said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not what I say?" (Lk. 6:46-49) So Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ lives in me. And the life that I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of (from, on, in, through, with, to and for) the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20) This is a living faith; and if it is a living faith, it has action. That action is obedience to Christ. "The devils also believe and tremble." (Jas. 2:19) What is your difference from the devil? The devils believe but they obey not. James said, "faith without action is dead, **being alone**." (Jas. 2:17)
- 9 We cannot have faith without obedience to Christ. **We are not saved in sin. We are saved not to sin.** But this does not mean we cannot sin, but we are expected not to sin, we are expected not to deliberately sin. There used to be an expression, "The devil made me do it." (same as

Eve's reasoning, Gen. 3:13) That is not so. Sinning is a decision on our part. We are tempted of the devil to sin but he cannot force us to sin. We decide to sin or not to sin. This does not mean we no longer sin but we are not expected to sin. But in case we sin, John says, "My little children, these things write I unto you, **that ye sin not**. And **if** any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 Jn. 2:1)

- 10 There are two parts of our response to the Gospel: believing and behaving. Rom 4:12 - **walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham**. Song: Trust and Obey.
- 11 When did Abraham see the male lamb which the Lord provided as the sacrificial lamb? It was when Abraham complied with all of what the Lord instructed him to do. Do you want to experience the miracle of the Lord in your life? Do you want to see what the Lord has provided for you?
 - a. Comply with all the requirements of faith and obedience. You have to obey wholeheartedly. It is only when you have obeyed the Lord in faith, then you will experience what the Lord has provided for you.
 - b. No matter how difficult; no matter how impossible your situation is; no matter how heavy your load is, simply trust and obey and the Lord will grant the miracle you need, for you household and even for your livelihood.
 - c. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Heb. 13:8) When you have true faith plus gospel-obedience just like Abraham, then what the Lord has done to Abraham, He will do for you. Walk all the way in obedience, and Jesus will continue to provide for all your needs.

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