*Seeing Jesus In The Old Testament*

Child Of Promise

Prepared By Nathan L Morrison For Sunday December 24th, 2023

Text: Genesis 18:10-11; Luke 1:30-31 Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 15:3-4

## Intro

1. This time of year the world seeks Jesus.
2. They seek Jesus in the manger as they focus on His birth.
   1. There is nothing in the Scriptures to indicate that Jesus was born during the winter months, but it was established as a tradition hundreds of years after His birth.
   2. A.D. 204: *‘Commentary on the Prophet Daniel’* by Hippolytus (170-235 A.D.) claimed Wed March 25 is when Jesus was conceived (Malachi 4:2: “But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall”).
   3. A.D. 221: Sextus Julius Africanus, a historian from Alexandria, Egypt, composed a chronicle of world events that listed the birth of Jesus on December 25th (Said Jesus was conceived March 25).
   4. A.D. 350: Pope Julius I (A.D. 337-352) declared December 25th a holiday (“Feast of the Nativity”) after confirming it was Jesus’ birthday (from the writings of Sextus Julius), thus giving Catholics a reason to celebrate (Malachi 4:2: “Sun of righteousness”).
3. Jesus said He would be lifted up and draw all men unto Him, speaking about His death, His cross (John 12:32-33).
4. As people are focused on Jesus let us take the opportunity to talk how He was the Child of Promise that fulfilled the Old Covenant and made it possible for people to obey the gospel and live eternally with Him!
5. Let us look at the similarities between Isaac and Jesus as both were Children of Promise and both their births and sacrifices were significant for mankind!

#### Isaac & Jesus: Children of Promise

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| Isaac | | Jesus | |
| **Birth Pre-Announced! Sarah past the age of childbearing!** | **Genesis 18:10-11, 14** | **Birth Pre-Announced! Mary was a virgin!** | **Luke 1:30-31, 34** |
| **Named before birth: Isaac** | **Genesis 17:19** | **Named before birth: Jesus** | **Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31** |
| **Miraculous conception: Sarah was advanced in years, past the age of childbearing; Had a son!** | **Genesis 21:1-7** | **Miraculous conception: Mary was young, a virgin; Had a son!** | **Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 2:4-5** |
| **Son of Promise! Through Isaac would come the Savior!** | **Genesis 12:3; 21:1-2** | **Son of Promise! Jesus is the Savior of the world!** | **Genesis 12:3; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:4-7; 8-21** |
| **Mocked by his brother (Ishmael)** | **Genesis 21:8-9** | **Mocked by His brothers** | **John 7:1-5** |
| **Abraham’s “Only Son” / Abraham means “father of a multitude of nations”** | **Genesis 22:2** | **God the Father’s “Only Son”** | **John 3:16-17** |

* 1. Note on both births:
     1. Isaac:
        1. Isaac’s birth through Abraham and Sarah was a promised miracle and a great occasion for joy.
        2. Through Isaac, the promise in Genesis 12:3 was started that through Abraham’s seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed!
        3. Both Ishamel and Isaac are called “Abraham's son” (Genesis 25:12, 19) but only Isaac is the Child of Promise (Genesis 17:15-21).
        4. It is through his seed that the Savior of the world would come!
     2. Jesus:
        1. Jesus’ birth through the Holy Spirit and Mary was a promised miracle and a great occasion for joy, heralded by angels to shepherds! (Luke 2:8-20)
        2. From Isaac, through the tribe of Judah and the line of King David, Jesus was born to earthly parents, establishing His right to rule as King Forever on the throne of David (Luke 1:31-33), and Jesus fulfilled the promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 that in Him all the nations of the earth are blessed! (Galatians 3:26-29)
        3. Jesus is called, “the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1).
        4. The Savior of the world has come! (John 1:29)
  2. There was occasion for great joy at the birth of the Child of Promise (both of them)!

#### Isaac & Jesus: Children of Sacrifice

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| Isaac | | Jesus | |
| **Offering of “Only Son”** | **Genesis 22:2** | **Offering of “Only Son”** | **Matthew 3:16-17** |
| **Offered at same place: Mt. Moriah** | **Genesis 22:2-3** | **Offered at same place: Mt. Moriah** | **II Chronicles 3:1; Mark 15:22** |
| **Three days between condemnation and life** | **Genesis 22:4** | **Three days between condemnation and life** | **Matthew 16:21** |
| **Bore the wood of his own life’s sacrifice** | **Genesis 22:6** | **Bore the wood of his own life’s sacrifice** | **John 19:17** |
| **Raised from death to life** | **Genesis 22:10-12; Hebrews 11:17-19** | **Raised from death to life** | **Matthew 16:21; Luke 24:1-7** |

* 1. Note on both offerings:
     1. Isaac:
        1. Abraham called to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, anticipates God the Father sacrificing His Only Son, Jesus!
        2. God sent Abraham to the “land of Moriah” (Genesis 22:2) to a mountain there that God instructed Abraham to go (Genesis 22:14: “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided”).
        3. Because of Abraham’s willingness to offer up his “only son,” his faith, which knew God would raise him up again to fulfill His promises (Hebrews 11:17-19), was tested and was granted the promise again that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 22:16-18).
        4. His offering of Isaac secured Israel’s future (Genesis 22:16-18).
     2. Jesus:
        1. The idea of a father willing to sacrifice his “only son” comes back in the gospels as Jesus begins to predict His death, a sacrifice for sins (Matthew 26:28; John 3:16; 10:17-18).
        2. Mt. Moriah is one of the mountains in the Moriah Mountain Range where Abraham went to offer up Isaac (Genesis 22:2), and where David purchased the Temple land where Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem (II Chronicles 3:1). So maybe not the exact mountain but the same area that Abraham was willing to offer up Isaac, Jesus was offered up as a “sacrifice for sins for all time,” outside the city gate (Hebrews 9:28; 10:12; 13:12-13).
        3. Because of Jesus’ willingness to offer up Himself as a “sacrifice for sins for all time,” He secured all saints’ future relationship with God and to live eternally with Him in Heaven! (I Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1:3-4)
        4. Jesus saves all those who obey Him! (Hebrews 5:8-9)
  2. The sacrifice of the Child of Promise (both of them) secured a future for God’s people to be with God!

## Conclusion

1. Isaac, The Child of Promise, brought forth the Israelites and the promise of the Savior.
2. Jesus, the Child of Promise, brought forth salvation and the promise of eternal life in Heaven!
3. The Scriptures emphasize Christ’s cross, not the manger.
4. We celebrate and honor His death & sacrifice every first day of the week!
   1. Jesus set it up that way in the way He wanted to be remembered (Matthew 26:26-29).
   2. His whole life, death, burial, and resurrection is remembered every week!
   3. We believe He was born (Galatians 4:4) but the emphasis is on His death, burial, & resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3-4).
   4. He lived and died so that we may live with Him in eternity! (I Peter 1:3-4; 2:24)
5. The birth of Jesus shows us God keeps His promises and the cross of Jesus shows us the enormity of sin, and the depths of God’s love (John 3:16).
6. Jesus, the Child of Promise, died for you so that you may live! Have you obeyed His voice?
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
8. If a Christian in error, remember from what you escaped, repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

Sources:

* Sextus Julius Africanus: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08565a.htm>
* <http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Africanus,_Sextus_Julius>
* Date of Christmas on Dec. 25: <http://www.ancient-future.net/christmasdate.html>