



Isaac

“In the Beginning”

“And God said, ‘Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.’” Genesis 17:19

Isaac’s birth, the son of Abraham and Sarah, was in many ways a miracle. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90. He was their first and only child. He was the one chosen by God to bear children who would eventually become the twelve tribes of Israel. But that is not the part played by Isaac immediately.

Sometime, we assume in early teenage years, God spoke to Abraham about a sacrifice. Abraham thought he was to sacrifice his son Isaac. So he arranged to take Isaac and take him to where they would build an altar, and Abraham would bind Isaac and sacrifice him to God. However, when they had built the altar God intervened and showed Abraham a more appropriate offering. Isaac had much more to do in his life for God. In Genesis 22 we read: “And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, ‘Here am I.’ And he said, ‘Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.’ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son.” Can you imagine even thinking of doing this?

Abraham was a very controlling father in many ways, and Isaac was a very obedient son. Abraham wanted to make sure that Isaac did not marry a Canaanite so he sent one of the men servants to find a suitable wife for Isaac. God led the servant to the water fountain where he found a woman who was willing to help them. She was very beautiful. Her name was Rebekah. In a way this was a marriage arranged by God who interceded and had Rebekah at the well when the man servant arrived. The family took him in, and the brother offered him his blessing.

Isaac married Rebekah, but not until he was 40 years old. And then it was another 20 years before Rebekah was able to conceive and bear children. When she did, they were twins, Jacob and Esau. The Bible tells us that they were fighting when they were in her womb, and would continue to fight just as their generations do today. Through the conniving of his wife, Isaac was deceived by the twins, but that’s another story. Isaac lived a very long and faithful life. He was buried with Abraham and Sarah in “Tomb of the Patriarchs” which is still fought over by Abraham descendants.

Today we feel that the 12 tribes of Israel are the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and eventually Jacob. The Arab nations of today will say they are the descendents of Abraham and Ishmael. Both are descendents of Abraham. Both claim descent from Abraham, the Jews through Isaac, and the Arabs through Ishmael. However, according to what we read in the Bible, we believe the true chosen descendents come through Isaac.

Isaac had a hard life. Even though he was deceived by his sons and his wife, God continued to bless him and his descendents. We can wonder why, but then we can wonder why we have so many blessings today when we don’t deserve them. We are all the children of God and God loves us.

Jacob carried on the family line, and the actual beginning of the 12 tribes of Israel.

There a beautiful song called “Here I am Lord.” It is actually based on Genesis 46:2 by Daniel Schutte and is referring to Jacob, but I think it fits the devotion of Abraham and Isaac also. The chorus goes:

“Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.”

Many times in the New Testament we are reminded of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob together. Through them, we have the 12 tribes of Israel.

Prayer: Lord, we have been given so much, and yet we always want for more. Help us to be satisfied and know that we have been given everything that we need, and particularly Your Son, Jesus Christ, a

gift we can never repay. Help us to seek to do Your will just as Isaac did and we know it won't be easy, Lord, so we need Your help every day, all day. Thank you Lord. Amen

1. Why did Abraham not go through with offering Isaac as a sacrifice?
2. Why was Abraham concerned with the wife for Isaac? Would you want your marriage arranged?
3. Even though Isaac had a hard life, he did not complain to God. Are we too apt to complain at times?

Isaac: Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17:19 and references to him continue through Genesis until his death in Genesis 35. Isaac as part of the long lineage is mentioned throughout the Old Testament and mentioned many times in the New Testament for his faithfulness to God. Probably one of the best references to his faithfulness in the New Testament is found in Hebrews 11:9-20. Other references are usually his being part of the line descended from Abraham.

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