

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

December 30, 2018

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God Owns All Things

Psalm 104:24-26: "O Lord, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all; the earth is full of Thy possessions. There is the sea, great and broad, in which are swarms without number, animals both small and great. There the ships move along, *and* Leviathan, which Thou hast formed to sport in it."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 147:1

+We Adore Him

Hymn #111, "This Is My Father's World"

We Confess Our Sin

Great God of infinite holiness, we confess that often our thoughts are corrupt, our affections perverse, our words unclean, and our deeds wayward.

Great God of infinite power, we confess our utter weakness, in ourselves, to do what is pleasing to You-including worship.

Great God of eternal days, our lives are not only wicked and weak, but brief as well.

Forgive us, O God, all lapses in love for You supremely, and for our neighbor as well. According to Your righteousness offered us in Christ, and the power made ours through His resurrection, cleanse us; strengthen us; renew us. Enable us to worship You, and to walk with You in the days and weeks to come, until we join those who praise You perfectly in heaven. In Jesus' matchless name, Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #469, "How Sweet and Awesome is the Place"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Phil. 4:6-7

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #589, "Fill Thou My Life"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Jn. 6:34-35

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #700, "Come, We That Love The Lord"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

The Christ of Christmas
Gen. 22:1-14
Study Notes for December 30, 2018

I. Introduction

II. The Christ of Christmas, Select.

A. God who Provides, Gen. 22:14.

1. The Background, Gen. 22:1-13.

a. The Setting, Select.

For this we go back to the year, 2166 B.C., when a man by the name of Abram was born and raised in Ur of the Chaldeans. As Babylon was a pagan culture, Abram himself would have been raised a pagan...

Yet God set His love upon this idolater to save him...

Accordingly, God made a series of promises to Abraham and His children...

Abraham responded and so left Ur with his wife, dad, brother, and nephew on account of the Covenant...

...now 25 years late, God was making good on all His promises except one: the Promised Child!...

b. The Call, Gen. 22:1-2.

Gen. 22:1

It has been around 20 years since Isaac was born. Hence it has been about 20 years since God last spoke to Abraham! This will come into play in a moment.

The focus and purpose of this revelation in Abraham's life was to "test him". Accordingly...

1. At no point did God ever plan for Abraham to kill his son...
2. What was the point of the testing?

In the words of Derek Kidner speaking of Abraham, "The test, instead of breaking him, brings him to the summit of his lifelong walk with God." (<i>Genesis</i> , TOTC, pp. 142-143)
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Gen. 22:2

"Take... go... sacrifice!"

As brutal as this passage reads, it brings to the forefront THE issue when it comes to God's Kingdom: Is God worthy to be worshipped, served, and praised in and of Himself?...

On what mountain was Abraham was to sacrifice his son?

c. The Response of Faith, Gen. 22:3-5.

Abraham understood that the call that God had placed on his life ultimately was a call of worship- an act where one ascribes to God His worth!

Abraham also planned on returning with his son! This is amazing! But then again it is not (cf. Heb. 11:17-19)...

One more note: By this time Abraham had spoken to God maybe 10 times over 50 years. Yet he took God at His word!...

d. The Submission, Gen. 22:6-8.

The profundity of the words of Abraham will be seen in a moment. Yet for now understand that the word

translated as, “provide,” is רָאָה (*rā·ā*) which is the Hebrew word for “seeing”...

Abraham here essentially said, “*Isaac, God SEES the situation clearly. He UNDERSTANDS what is going on. He will SEE to the sacrifice!*” With this, we the reader begin to SEE the episode in new light. Amidst the anguish that we are supposed to read into Abraham’s silence, there is now an element of confidence in the Lord! God sees and so understands our plight! He’ll see to our need as well!

e. **The Sacrifice, Gen. 22:9-13.**

The discovery as to the faith and devotion of Abraham was not for God, but for the patriarch and his son. After this event, both walked away having confirmed what they beforehand could only profess: God truly was most important to them!

It was at this moment God opened Abraham’s eyes to see that which in his grief he most certainly had overlooked!

2. **The Name, Gen. 22:14.**

The name that Abraham gave to this mountain was, “Yahweh-Yireh”- traditionally translated as “The Lord will provide!” Yet again the word used in this instance is the Hebrew word for “seeing,” רָאָה (*rā·ā*)- which makes this incredibly profound!

Illustration: Avatar

The “seeing” of this text goes way beyond physical sight to denote the idea of beholding the true nature of a thing and so compensating for its weakness! Accordingly when Abraham changed the name of Mount Moriah to “God sees” he was making the incredible statement that God...

...that is what “Yahweh Yireh” denotes. It is more than just, “God gives us stuff!” It is that He understands our real need and responds accordingly.



3. **The Significance of the Name, Mt. 9:36-38; Gen. 22:14b.**

Mt. 9:36-38

When Christ came to this world, He looked upon man and truly saw their trials, difficulties, and pain. This led Him to action! From this we conclude that Christ is a God who sees- Yahweh Yireh! Accordingly...

1. He wept when Mary and Martha grieved over the death of Lazarus- even though Christ was soon to raise him, Jn. 11:35.
2. He mourned over Jerusalem and their treatment of the prophets, Mt. 23:37ff.
3. He was moved deeply- the Greek says that He “moaned with compassion within His bowels”- when He saw a bereaved woman on account of the death of her child (Lk. 7:13), beheld the blind (Mt. 20:34) and the leprous (Mk. 1:41), viewed the poor and malnourished (Mt. 15:32), and saw the sick and deformed (Mt. 14:14).

***Where We Live:** Have you ever wonder if Christ sees the struggle and pain that you are in? Have you ever at times felt abandoned by the Lord? The Christ of Christmas is a Savior who NOT ONLY came to do the will of His father, BUT He came to bare our griefs and sorrows... for He is a God who sees, Yahweh Yireh!” (cf. Is. 53:4-6)

Gen. 22:14b

From Abraham on down through Redemptive History, Mount Moriah became the place where God’s people went when they were burdened by life, beset with sorrow or mourning, frightened, lonely, afraid, weary and heavy laden by their weakness and sin! In fact so significant was this place that God’s people built the temple on top of that mountain- Mount Moriah (2 Chron. 3:1)!

It was here- on Mount Moriah- that around 2,000 years ago Jesus was nailed to a cross and so died in our place!!!...