

TEXT- Hebrews 11:20 *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

INTRO- We have examined the faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah and seen their faith. They have been commended and set as examples. In Genesis 22 Abraham was instructed to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. We have seen Abraham's faith that even in the event that God really would require Isaac's life, God would and could raise him from the dead in order to keep His covenant promises to Abraham through his son Isaac.

But, what about the faith of Isaac being willing to be offered?

Isaac believed the Word passed on to him from Abraham and conferred the blessing on Jacob. His life falls into three periods.

The first seventy-five years he coexists with his father Abraham.

Isaac is 60 at the birth of Jacob and Esau.

Abraham lives another 15 years after their birth.

Isaac dies at the age of 180

Isaac is lodged between Abraham and Jacob, somewhat unseen, unnoticed and unmentioned. In Hebrews 11 only 1 is given to Isaac. Yet, Isaac lived longer than any of the other patriarchs; but, he is the least known. The life of Isaac is most noted for 5 distinct things.

- 1) He is the "son of promise" to Abraham
- 2) He marries Rebekah at age 36
- 3) He gave birth to the 1st twins of the Bible (Jacob and Esau)
- 4) He was the heir of everything that belonged to his father, Abraham
- 5) He was different from all of the other sons of Abraham; in that, God would fulfill His promise through the seed of Isaac.

We see Isaac:

- **A miraculous birth**
- **Isaac on the altar – Mt. Moriah – Isaac is over 20 yrs. of age**
- **A bride for Isaac at age 36- Rebecca**
- **Isaac digging wells – 5 wells**
- **Isaac blessing Jacob – A special people**

I. Isaac's Faith in God's Word

A. To be a sacrifice – Isaac offered no resistance

Jas 2:21 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

B. To be a great nation

Psa 105:8-10 *He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. 9 Which covenant he made with*

Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; 10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

C. To be a peculiar people

Gen 25:23 *And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*

Rom 9:10-13 *And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

II. Isaac's Blessing of Jacob

A. Isaac understood God's plan for Israel

Gen 27:26-40 *And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss.*

B. Every believer can be a child of Abraham – True faith

Gal 4:28-31 *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

C. Just believe God

Do we believe what the Bible tells us about heaven? About Jesus being the resurrection and the life and those of us who believe in Him though we may die we will live?

Isaac, like our Saviour, was the son of promise - look up Genesis 3:15; 17:19; a miracle was involved in his birth Genesis 21:1-5; he was offered by his father on the altar of sacrifice - Romans 8:32; he was a son of resurrection Hebrews 11:17-19, Romans 1:4; and he was the son and heir

John 14:1-3 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

1. FAITH SEES THINGS NOT YET REVEALED TO SIGHT.

Heb. 11:1 *...the evidence of things not seen.*

Faith operates in the realm of the unseen, he is a man who sees the invisible.

The world's popular saying is 'Seeing is believing!'; but the Christian says, 'Believing is seeing!'

2. IT IS THE ACTING ON FAITH THAT PLEASES THE LORD.

With faith it is possible to please God, **Hebrews 11:6**. Isaac's life was full of tragic failures, but his name is recorded in the catalogue of the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews Eleven because, in spite of his failures, he believed God.

3. FAITH MAY BE SUBMISSIVE

Isaac's faith did not initiate anything on Mount Moriah

4. REAL FAITH IS TESTED

Faith was kindled in the heart of Isaac when he was young, but at each crisis of his life a fresh test of faith came: on Mount Moriah, when he was 33 years old; when he met Rebekah at the age of 50; and at the end of his life when he blessed his sons.

5. FAITH SOMETIMES SHINES IN DEFEAT

Isaac's faith must have nearly failed when he blessed his sons, but he believed that God had overruled in the matter, and he quickly accepted the situation. Faith can shine out brightly in the midst of failure.

6. FAITH ACCEPTS EVERY SITUATION PERMITTED BY GOD AS HIS WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING HIS PURPOSE.

Study Genesis 27:1-40 carefully. What a very amazing story it is, demonstrating as it does the wonderful way in which God sometimes allows our plans to be upset in order to accomplish His divine purpose! We need to tread very softly when we read this chapter.

7. FAITH IS KEEN AT THE END OF LIFE.

In Genesis 27:1, we read that Isaac was old, feeble and blind, and yet he could see '**Him who is invisible**' for he had the vision of faith. Blind, yet seeing - that is the vision of faith! How beautiful such faith is at the end of life!

CONCL – - Isaac Blessing His Sons

Isaac took time to meditate on the Lord (Gen 24:63),

He prayed (Gen 25:21),

He walked with God and was blessed by Him (Gen 26:12),

He blessed his sons (Heb 11:20),

He died as part of the covenant wherein God identified Himself throughout Scripture as the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."