

Title: God Providing Himself

Text: Gen 22: 1-14

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Our subject: God Providing Himself

Christ said, *John 5:39: Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me*

Luke 24:27: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Our text gives us one of the best pictures of Christ.

Genesis 22:8: And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

We will behold some things Abraham did in trial and the purpose. But our focus is on Christ

Proposition: Christ is God providing himself a lamb.

Genesis 22: 1: And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am.* 2: And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

FATHER AND SON

We see God the Father and the Son of God here. God told Abraham, “Take thy son, thine only Son, who thou lovest.” The Lord Jesus is the Son of God, the only begotten Son of God. It is not that Christ was born or begotten as sinners are begotten. It means Christ is the Son of God like no other. He is the only begotten Son of God, preeminently loved of the Father.

“*Whom thou lovest,*” God said. God said of Christ, “This is my beloved Son.” God the Father loves his Son with a perfect, holy love.

Abraham is being made to experience the love of God for him—the love of God for chosen sinners—Abraham is called to offer his only Son whom he loves—that is what God the Father did for his sinful people—AMAZING LOVE!

John 3: 16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, may not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 4: 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.” (1Jo 4:9-10 AV)

God commanded Moses, “*And offer him for a burnt offering.*” God sent his only begotten Son, Christ Jesus to be the offering to God for his people.

All God’s true spiritual Israel—God’s elect—were guilty. God’s law demanded we die. God the Father sent his only begotten Son to die that shameful, painful, death of the cross in place of his people. Christ came to justify us, to make us righteous, to put away sin, to make atonement for us with God. That is what Christ accomplished.

Hebrews 10: 9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all [time]

Genesis 22: 3: And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4: Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5: And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Abraham had three days to think about this sacrifice. It was heavy upon his heart for three days. God the Father chose to give his Son for an offering for his people before the world was made. From the foundation of the world, his Son entered covenant to save his people. Right then Christ became the Lamb of God—slain in the mind and purpose of God. Our names were “written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev 13: 8).

Notice, Abraham provided everything necessary: the sacrifice, the wood, the knife. God provided everything for his people in Christ. God was in full control of everything that happened on the cross.

Acts 2:23: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Acts 4: 27: For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Abraham commanded his servants to stay behind while he and his son went forth to the mountain to worship. He said we will come again. The eternal redemption of Christ’s people from the curse of the law is the work of God the Father and the Son alone.

2 Corinthians 5: 19: God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself

The glory of declaring God just and Justifier belongs to God the Father and his Son alone!

ABRAHAM’S TRIAL

Genesis 22: 1:...God did tempt Abraham,...

God will prove true faith. Works do not justify us before God. We are “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom 3: 24). But wherever God gives true faith, God tries faith. why? God tries the faith he gives to bring glory to God! He tries us to manifest that it is God who gave his child faith—and God sustains it—to bring God glory!

The works whereby our faith is true are works whereby God proves that we believe God is able. Abraham believed God is able to save him. Abraham had no ability. This was a trial requiring faith in God’s ability. God had said Isaac was the son through whom Christ would come. But Abraham did not try to figure this out. He believed God.

Abraham believed God was able. He trusted God’s wisdom and ability because he believed God. Abraham did not have to understand why God commanded he offer his son because he believed God. He did not have to have all the details because he believed God.

True faith believes God is able and God will save. Abraham said, “*I and the lad [will] come again to you.*” Abraham knew Christ would come through Isaac. He knew Christ was all his salvation and the salvation of all God’s elect. So he knew God would save Isaac for Christ’s sake.

Faith in Christ knows we shall be saved by Christ and for Christ’s sake. However God works the details is his business. But faith knows and believes God will save me for Christ’s sake. Faith says, “*I and the lad will go worship and we will come again.*”

CHRIST IN THE LAMB

Genesis 22: 6: And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7: And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8: And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Isaac knew there is no approaching God except through the blood of a Lamb.

Leviticus 17: 11: For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9: 22: And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Listen to Abraham's faith, "*And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*" Christ is God providing himself—the Son of God, God in human flesh. Christ is God providing himself. Christ is God. Christ is God providing himself the Lamb. Our Lord Jesus is the Lamb of God!

God provided redemption for his people in his Son, the spotless Lamb of God. The Lamb honored his law. He satisfied his justice for us. Christ fulfilled his covenant for us. "It is finished" is the Savior cried!

SUBSTITUTION

Genesis 22: 9: 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. 10: And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11: And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12: And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13: 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 [catch these last] in the stead of his son. 14: And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Isaac was a man. He willingly laid himself on that altar to be sacrificed. Isaac believed his Father and he believed God. Christ willingly laid down his life for his people trusting his Father's promise that he would arise from the dead. Christ was willingly bound by the justice of God when he was made sin for us. As Abraham raised the knife and Isaac saw it so Christ saw his father awaking the sword of justice against him.

Zechariah 13:7: Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

John 10: 17: Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18: No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Here is substitution. God provided a ram and Abraham offered that ram "*in the stead of his son.*" Christ is the believer's Substitute who died in the stead of God's elect children. God provided himself a Lamb. There that day the ram was caught in a thorn thicket. We see a shadow of Christ with the crown of thorns on his head. The ram God provided for Abraham was offered in the stead of his son. Christ took the place of all God's elect sons.

As Christ called Abraham, Christ calls his people from heaven to behold him and believe on him just as he called and revealed this lamb to Abraham. Do you think Abraham had to be talked into laying that ram on

the altar in Isaac's place? When we behold our sins—and behold Christ the Lamb—we will believe on him.

Let's end remembering this: faith will be tried. God gave Abraham faith and this trial proved he believed God. He was willing to part with his own son because he believed God would provide. The trial is always to make us behold Christ and renew faith in Christ our Substitute, "*And Abraham lifted up his eyes...and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns and Abraham went and took the ram and Abraham offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.*" The trial is to make us come to God in Christ alone through faith

The trial is to keep us renewed with this resolve in the assurance of faith, "*Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*" From the first trial to the last we behold again and again Jehovahjireh—the Lord will provide—he has, he is and he shall.

In the next few verses of our text, Christ declared he would bless Abraham with all spiritual blessings and call out all his elect. So we have the sure promise,

Romans 8:32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Amen!