

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 7: ISAAC - Part 1 – The Son of Promise

Aim: To show how Isaac, the son of promise, is a Type of Christ. Through them both, the promise of possessing heaven and earth can be fulfilled.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-6, 15-17; 21:1-3, 12. Hebrews 11:11-12, 17-19. Galatians 3:29. Romans 4:13.

In our last lesson we studied the mysterious individual called Melchizedek. He was the king-priest who blessed Abram following a battle with 9 kings, during which Abram rescued his nephew Lot.

Q: What did Melchizedek bring out when Abram returned with Lot and the other captives? What does that signify?

A:

Q: Who was Melchizedek?

A:

Q: What does the name Melchizedek mean?

A:

Q: What does Salem mean, and what is the city's name today?

A:

Melchizedek was a king of righteousness and peace, and a priest of the Most High God. In our last lesson, we studied what Genesis chapter 14 had to say about Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek, as well as what Hebrews chapter 7 said.

Hebrews 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"

3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

God, in His Word, chose not to reveal the details of Melchizedek's parents, his birth, or death. Because of this, it appears as if he has no beginning of days and continues to live and function as a priest forever. Melchizedek was 'made like the Son of God' – made like Jesus Christ, but he was not Jesus Christ. Instead he was a type of Jesus Christ.

At the end of our last lesson, we concluded that the mysterious Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ in His future role as **King and Priest during His Millennial Kingdom**. Jesus, because He is God, has no 'beginning of days nor end of life'. In that way Jesus will become a priest after the order of Melchizedek 'forever', literally for the age. (*Greek: 'aion' is singular and therefore it refers to an age, in this case, the Age to come*)

Q: What do you understand about Christ's present priestly role as opposed to His future role according to the order of Melchizedek?

A:

Genesis 14:19 *And he [Melchizedek] blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;*

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe [a tenth] of all.

In the blessing of Abram, Melchizedek was also prophetically pointing to a future time when Abraham and his descendants will have victory over their enemies. Following a future battle of the kings of the earth, they will have positions of rulership in the heavens **and** on the earth.

However, when Melchizedek proclaimed this to Abram, God had not yet given he and his wife descendants. They were already too old to have children, and without a child there could never be the future fulfillment of the blessing that Melchizedek gave regarding the possession of heaven and earth.

But in the next chapter of Genesis, we find out God’s plan for this:

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| Observations: |
|----------------------|

Genesis 15:1 *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”*

2 But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

3 Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!”

*4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but **one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.**”*

5 Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to

number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

Underline what God said He would be to Abram in v.1.

God told Abram (soon to be ‘Abraham’), that He would be his **shield**. God would be Abram’s protector, in the same way that a shield would protect a soldier in battle. And then God said He would be Abram’s **exceedingly great reward!** The use of two superlatives (‘exceedingly’ & ‘great’) to describe the reward emphasizes that God was going to bless Abram beyond measure!

Q: In verses 2 & 3 what does Abram link God’s promise of an ‘exceedingly great reward’ with?

A:

Q: Reward is **always** to do with inheritance. Which NT verse confirms this?

A:

Q: In v. 4, how does God correct Abram’s thinking concerning his heir in?

A:

Q: How does God confirm this promise to him in v.5?

A:

Wow, that’s a huge number of descendants to come from one man!

Abram had no physical descendants with his wife Sarai, yet God was showing him just how many he would have in the future. Given their age, this

would require **faith** and a **Divine intervention**. We can see commentary on Abraham and Sarah's faith in Hebrews chapter 11:

Observations:

Hebrews 11:11 By faith [to the saving of the soul] Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one man [Abraham], and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

After the Lord God took Abram outside to look at the stars of the sky in multitude, we learn that:

Genesis 15:6 ...he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him [Abram] for righteousness.

Abram believed - had faith - in what God had said concerning his descendants being so numerous it would be impossible to count them. And because of his faith God accounted (credited) it to him as righteousness.

God would later change his name for a very good reason, and it has to do with Abram's descendants being as numerous as the stars in the heavens and the sand on the seashore. It would be a confirmation of the unconditional covenant God cut with him in Genesis chapter 16, which was based on the promises in Genesis 12 that God would give him a land, a nation and he would be a blessing in all the earth (*Gen.12:1-3*).

Observations:

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

2 "And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

*4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and **you shall be a father of many nations.***

*5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, **but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.***

6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Q: In Genesis 1:28 God stated that the Man was to 'be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion'. Where do we see similar statements in these verses?

A:

The name 'Abram' means '**honored father**'. And 'Abraham', as is stated in verses 4 & 5, means '**honored father of many nations**', '**father of a multitude**'. At that point in time Abraham and Sarai still did not have any children.

***Genesis 17:15** Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.*

16 "And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Q: What promise does God make to Abraham and Sarah in v.16?

A:

God promised that Sarah, even though she was 90 years old, would produce a son of her own. She would be **a mother of nations and kings** which would come from her body through the birth of **the son of promise**.

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him-whom Sarah bore to him-Isaac.

You may remember that **Abel**, and then **Seth**, pointed to **the Seed of the Woman**, promised in Genesis 3:15, which is Christ. In the same manner, Isaac is the promised seed to Abraham. We read in Hebrews 11:11 that Sarah *received strength to conceive seed* . **Isaac was ‘the son of promise’**. It would be through Isaac that nations and kings in multitude would come, and eventually the King of kings – the Lord Jesus Christ. (Although Abraham had a son with Hagar, Sarah’s maid, and although he remarried after Sarah’s death and had 6 more sons, the promises concerning his descendants ruling from the heavens and on the earth will only ever be through Isaac, the son of promise.)

Genesis 21:12 ... for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

In lesson 5 we noted that Christ was in the lineage of **Seth** who was the replacement seed for **Abel**, who Cain killed. In the same way that Christ was in the lineage of Seth, He is also in the lineage of **Isaac**, and in that way, in Isaac the Promised Seed ‘will be called’ (appointed, will come through). Because of that, we know that not only is **Isaac** an ancestor, but he is also **a Type of Christ**, the Promised Seed of the Woman.

One day - the 7th Day - the descendants of Abraham through Isaac will be as numerous as the '*stars in the heaven and the sand which is on the seashore*'. The covenant promise God made with Abraham was unconditional and will not be annulled. We know that the Jews are the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the land in the Middle East where Abraham walked its length and breadth is their inheritance. However, Abraham also has spiritual descendants through the Lord Jesus Christ:

Galatians 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Q: If we 'are Christ's', what are we also?

A: (i)

(ii)

Q: Contextually (*look at vv.26 & 27*) how should we understand this verse?

A:

Let's see how Romans describes the promise to Abraham:

*Romans 4:13 For the promise that he would be **the heir of the world** was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

Abraham's inheritance is to be 'heir of the world', and **if** we are Christ's **then** that promise is available to us also! It will come through **the righteousness of faith**. Through believing what God has said, just as Abraham believed God. Can you begin to believe that?

In our next lesson – ‘Isaac Part 2’, we will look at how Abraham’s faith was tested with respect to that same promise, when he was told to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

Let’s pray.