

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was God's purpose in asking Abraham to sacrifice his son?
2. Do we need to know "why" before obeying God?
3. What sacrifice does God want from His people today?
4. How have all the nations in the world been blessed in Abraham's seed?

### SUMMARY:

God had chosen Abraham to be the father of His people, Israel, who were to be a nation of God-fearing people trusting and worshipping God. In preparing Abraham for this great responsibility God asked him to do one of the most difficult things any father could be asked to do—with no reason or explanation given, he was asked to sacrifice his son. Abraham's simple trusting obedience and faith was evident by his immediate fulfilling plans to carry out God's commands. Abraham's heart must have been almost torn out as he walked up the mountain with his son carrying the wood for the sacrifice. As Isaac wondered where the sacrifice was, Abraham assured him that God would provide. God did provide. At the moment Abraham raised his hand to slay Isaac, the angel came to stop him just in time. Abraham's faith was proven, a ram was provided by God for the sacrifice and Abraham went forth to become the father of a great nation and a great faith.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

March 25, 2007

First Quarter

### ABRAHAM'S FAITH THROUGH OBEDIENCE

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:17-19*

**LESSON SETTING:** In Palestine (today) due west of the Dead Sea.  
It was known then as Beersheba.

**TIME:** Approximately 1975 BC

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#### I. REQUIREMENTS FOR OBEDIENCE

- A. Realizing Obedience is Required. Deuteronomy 26:16; Eccl. 12:13
- B. Willingness. Acts 5:29; Hebrews 12:28-29
- C. Discipline. 2 Corinthians 10:5

#### II. OBEDIENCE CARRIED OUT

- A. Received Instructions. Deuteronomy 4:1
- B. Carry Out Instructions.
- C. Finish Instructions. 2 Timothy 4:7
- D. Testimony of Works. 1 Peter 2:12

#### III. SPIRITUAL TESTS OF FAITH THROUGH OBEDIENCE

- A. Difficult Situations. Acts 16:23
- B. Delays. Genesis 7:9-10; John 11:6;
- C. Doubt. Matthew 21:21-22; 1 Peter 4:12
- D. God's Promises. Romans 8:28; 2 Peter 1:4
- E. God Provides. Philippians 4:19

#### IV. FAITH THROUGH OBEDIENCE REWARDED

- A. Earthly: 1. Abundant Living. John 10:10  
2. Provisions. Isaiah 1:19  
3. Blessings. Luke 6:38
- B. Heavenly. Revelation 14:12  
1. Crowns. 1 Corinthians 9:25

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED: BECAUSE THOU HAS OBEYED MY VOICE.*

Genesis 22:18

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Genesis 24:1-67

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Deuteronomy 26:16;  
Proverbs 21:10-31;  
Ecclesiastes 12:13; Acts 5:29

**QUARTERLY THEME:** The Beginnings

**TOPIC:** A MARRIAGE BY FAITH

**INTRODUCTION:**

It is indeed interesting and inspiring to read of the account of Abraham's servant seeking a wife for Isaac. How each step of the way he trusted God for guidance. His faith in God stood the test and he was not disappointed. God was with him and showed him that it was Rebekah that He had chosen for Isaac's wife. How marvelous that Rebekah was willing to leave her home and country to go with a servant to a strange land to become the bride of one she did not know. God most certainly was working in her heart.

The servant's errand is truly symbolic of the work of the Holy Spirit. God has placed Him upon this earth to seek out a bride for His Son, Christ. Are we willing to go with Him as Rebekah was willing to accompany Abraham's servant? How blessed we are if we heed his calling and accept and follow Him. We too shall receive gifts as Rebekah did—jewels, silver, gold and raiment from the servant. Ours shall be forgiveness, mercy, peace, blessings, etc. Choosing this path will result in much more happiness than that which Rebekah and Isaac experienced, as earth holds nothing comparable to a union with Christ.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah was made possible by the ingredients of faith and obedience to God's will. Likewise, only those who exercise faith and obedience to God's word will have a part in the greatest marriage of all, the marriage of the Lamb.

**GOLDEN TEXT: COMMIT THY WAY UNTO THE LORD: TRUST ALSO IN HIM: AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS.** Psalm 37:5

To commit one's way unto the Lord does not mean to choose our own way and hope for God to bless us in our endeavors. Jesus, as a young lad once asked his parents: "*Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*" (Luke 2:40) Abraham's servant must have observed Abraham's trust and faith in his God, and felt the need of this same God to help him on his mission to find a wife for Isaac. How heartfelt were his thanks to God when he realized how wonderfully He had led him to Nahor's house. How one is blessed in knowing that God has helped to follow His way. "*I being in the way, the Lord led me.*" (Genesis 24:27)

May the words we have considered in this first quarter concerning "The Beginnings" encourage those of us who have not yet entered into a covenant with God through His Son, to truly seek a new beginning to walk in His Way. And may those of us who are in His Way seek a closer walk with God, through the teachings of our Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so we may more fully learn to "*Commit our way unto the Lord and trust also in Him.*"

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Mar. 26- Apr. 1**

- M. \*Abraham Instructs His Servant. Genesis 24:1-9
- T. \*A Marriage By Faith. Genesis 24:10-15
- W. \*Rebekah Seeks to Serve. Genesis 24:16-21
- T. \*Thanksgiving for God's Leading. Genesis 24:22-31
- F. \*The Testimony of God's Leading. Genesis 24:32-49
- S. \*Rebekah Gives Her Consent. Genesis 24:50-58
- S. \*Rebekah Meets Isaac. Genesis 24:59-67