

# Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 10 am

Isaac and Jesus The Lord will provide

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Welcome to all.

Opening Scripture and prayer Psalm 57:9-11

Te Deum

Hymn MP 631 Tell out my soul

Scripture Psalm 57 (page 576)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Children's talk Sin shirt

Chorus MP 308 I will give thanks to thee - O God above the heavens  
MP ??

Notices Harvest, at set up, bring food to the chapel > BCM list  
Fellowship lunch, Rigtje 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct

Prayer and share time

Reading Zechariah 13:1-9 (page 957)  
Genesis 22:1-19 (Page 22)

Hymn MP 889 More about Jesus

Sermon Isaac and Jesus The Lord will provide

Hymn MP 632 Thank you for the cross

Closing Prayer

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## Prayer and Exordium

- In the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC the city of Samaria was under siege by the entire Aramean army. One day when the conditions within were dire the prophet Elisha said tomorrow there will be deliverance, ... and there was for the lord caused the enemy to get up and flee, and the city was saved. It was described as a day of Good News. (2K7)
- When Jerusalem was under siege surrounded by the vast Assyrian Army the Lord struck down 185,000 of them and the city was freed.
- When Peter was imprisoned the Lord sent an Angel who opened all the gates and lead him out. So again a little later when Paul and Silas were beaten and chained imprisoned. The Lord sent an earthquake, the doors flung open and they were all free.

In each of the above, and in many other cases the Lord intervened and provided the rescue, the means of escape, the way out, He saved - His people - from disaster. Here in Genesis 22 we see the foreshadowing of a greater rescue to come, One that the Lord will bring. The title is "**the Lord will provide**" x2

Right at the beginning of the Bible, the Lord tells us of his great purpose, the giving of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Here early on, in the clearest of terms, before there had been any instruction about sacrifice, we see a sacrifice. A burnt offering for the removal of the guilt of sin. This human sacrifice is not something man is to do, it is something the Lord will do. It is the sacrifice of the Son, at the hands of His own father. Would God really do that?? YES!

**The Lord will provide, on the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.** Genesis 22 is a most important passage in the Bible for here the Lord reveals ahead of time - who and what He will bring as the answer for man's greatest need.

This passage is firstly about God testing Abraham in his faith as it says right at the beginning. It is about faith, but it is not just about faith. It is also about the sacrifice of Isaac. Here is the clearest of pictures of Jesus and his death on the cross. That is why 'faith' and 'sacrifice' are put together, it is only the cross of Christ that makes true faith possible. True life with God possible.

Look with me at the parallels here as God foreshadows Jesus in Isaac.

Here God says to Abraham **Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love** The phrase '**Your only son**' the 1<sup>st</sup> time in OT is mentioned three times: at the beginning v2 **Then God said, "Take your son, your only son.**

The again in v12 **you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.**" And again v15 **you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,**

Yes that is right this is the **only son** - no mention of Ishmael here.

This '**only son whom you love**' clearly shows that Isaac is a picture of another Son who will come later from the same line, Jesus Christ - for the first occurrence in the NT is Mt 3:17 "**And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."**" And in other synoptics? Mk 1:11, Luke 3:22 **This is my son, / you are my son, whom I love**

and in John's gospel 3:16 **for God so loved ...gave ...one and only son**

- **Is this not what God did? – He who took the best he had, the One He loved, and then give him up x2**

The **one who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all** Ro 8:32. God did not save his son from harm's way - but put him in harm's way.

**Take - You son, - your only son, Isaac - whom you love – go – sacrifice him.**

Abraham is told to sacrifice His son. What a clear picture of that Son who was a descendant of Abraham – Jesus the One who was later to be given up for the sins of many. The Lord one day is to provide for you and I His eternal Son, God who was to come in the flesh. The one who is described as the Author of life, the Righteous and Holy One, the Lord of Glory. He is the one to be slain. **and go to Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.**

And what was that place? **the region of Moriah.** Mt Moriah the mountain on which the temple was later to be built in Jerusalem. 2 Chr 3:1. The temple mount the place of sacrifice.. and nearby mount Calvary, where Christ was crucified.

**5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."**

Did not Christ say this as he entered upon his agony in the garden, he took only three of his disciples with him, and then went some distance in the garden. For Christ it was a lonely battle one he had to fight alone.

When Abraham came at last to Mount Moriah, he bade his servants remain at the foot of the hill. Now come with me to Calvary, to the true Moriah. At the foot of that hill God bade all to stop. The 12 servants had been with Christ in his life-journey, but they must not be with Him in His death throes. When it comes to the cross they all forsake Him and flee; He is to fight the battle alone.

6 Isaac carries the wood, he bears the wood for his own intended sacrifice, what a picture of He who bore His own cross to Calvary John 19:17.

Young strong Isaac could have resisted his aged father, but he willingly continues towards the sacrifice. Here is Isaac the obedient son, like Jesus who says, "**Here I am I come to do your will O God**" Ps 40:7-8; Heb 10:7

Isaac came willingly. He who was to smite with the knife, and the other who was to be the victim, "**the two of them went on together,**" Imagine them both walking together in silence? in peace, agreeing in heart as they head towards the altar. Did not the father and the son work together towards the redeeming of the children of God by the cross? In that great work which we are saved, the Father gave us Christ, but Christ equally gave us Himself. God the father sent him, and He like Isaac came willingly.

What amazing love.

At last Isaac was bound, bound by his father. And willing to be so. So Christ was bound, although through the instruments of the Romans who had **no power against unless it was given by the Father.**" Isaac might have resisted, but he did not; there are no traces of struggling; no signs of so much as a murmur.

Do we not see here fulfilled Isaiah 53:7 **He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.**

- **The father slaughters the son he loves - Isaac was the darling child of Abraham's heart, How Abraham loved him.**

What of our Lord? how near and dear was the Redeemer Son to the Father? Abraham went to slay his son – So the Eternal son is slain – by His father!

As the Father says Zech 13:7 "**Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty.** Which continues quoted in Mt 26:31, Mr 14:27 : **'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'**

**I will, I will** – What great sacrifice, which in the fullness of time was to be offered up, ...with what heart could tender Abraham tie those guiltless hands, which perhaps had often been lifted up in prayer to ask his blessing, and stretched out to embrace him. They were now bound with the cords of love and duty! However, it must be done. Having bound him, he lays him upon the altar, and his hand upon the head of his sacrifice and now, we may suppose, with floods of tears, he gives, and takes, the final farewell of a parting kiss for his dying son. Yet to satisfy Justice this he resolutely forgets the heart of a father, and puts on the awful gravity of an executioner. With a determined heart, and an eye lifted up to heaven, he takes the knife, and stretches out his hand ready to

give a fatal cut to Isaac's throat. The heir of promise lies ready to bleed and die by his own father's hand, who never shrinks at the doing of it. Let all the earth look on.

Abraham's obedience represents the love of God to us, in delivering up his only-begotten Son to suffer and die for us, as a sacrifice. Indeed the Lord had provided. It pleased the Lord himself to bruise him. Did not the Isaiah the prophet later say **it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer** 53:10

No wonder darkness came over the land, the whole earth as the Father judicially judged his son. – in my place, instead of me.

### *And yet there is hope*

Isaiah 53:10 goes on **and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.**

In other words we are told there will be the victory of the resurrection - 11 **After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;**

And by this resurrection there will be the power to bring a sinner to be at peace with Almighty God - **by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.** Here is our great sin bearer.

v11 **The angel of the Lord called out from heaven -** The angel of the Lord, that is God himself, the eternal Word, the angel of the covenant, who was to be the great Redeemer and comforter, calls out Abraham, Abraham "Don't do it"

See how the parallel runs a little further, after having been suspended for a moment — Isaac was restored again. He was bound and laid upon the altar, the knife was drawn, and he was in spirit given up to death, - but he was delivered.

'**Three days**' or '**the third day**' occurs over 100 times in the Bible. The first time here in v4 **On the third day he looked up and saw the place in the distance.**

As the three day journey ends - symbolically the three day journey of the cross is completed. His living still after the three days in which he was dead in Abraham's purpose marks the Messiah's resurrection on the third day.

Here is foreshadowed the resurrection from the dead. Heb 11:19 says: **Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.** So was Jesus delivered. He came again, the living and triumphant Son, after He had been dead. Jesus was dead, but on the third day He rose again.

Has not the Lord so clearly shown what was to come? The future final sacrifice to end all sacrifices. But here v13 **Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. instead of his son.**

The Son would one day be sacrificed - but not yet, x2 - in the meantime there would be animal sacrifice, a symbolic substitute Ex 29:18

- "caught in a thicket by his horns" as Jesus was crowned with thorns.
- The Ram not hurt by the thicket but held by its horns remained unblemished

This regular sacrifice was a constant reminder of the seriousness of sin. It was a constant reminder of the need for a substitute whose blood was to be shed to pay for forgiveness of that sin. Here in Gen 22 is Christ and the cross pictured.

### *Application*

The cross is central to God's plan in this world. Like the altar was elevated so the sacrifice could be seen so the cross is lifted up, 'placarded' like the billboards for the world to see. For you and I to look to.

This is the way, here is where we come, this is where you start. Here is the door into the Kingdom of God. Here is where peace is found.

As image bearers everyone knows that God is there. Some acknowledge that, as you do for you are here this morning. Do you come Sunday by Sunday to give thanks? Do you feel better for doing so? You acknowledge that God is good. You acknowledge that he is the giver of life. You know He is the source of all the good we have and see around us.

You feel better for being here. Do you may feel it is a pleasant place with pleasant people? You like to hear the word of God the Bible, it is full of wisdom, it is different from the world around. It is refreshing, it is interesting. Yet for some, for many, it is a crossless faith, x2 despite all this, it is a crossless faith.

You respond to God's general revelation of himself through the world around. You respond to the inner witness of your conscience. You know there is more than the material world, you recognise that there is an eternal dimension, as the Bible says God has put eternity in your heart. Yet it is crossless. x2

You are to some degree a God fearer, there is some measure of restraint, some measure of Godward reflection. And yet you have never come to the cross.

There is something missing. You might only be a little aware of it. you don't have what some others seem to have, you wish God to be more real to you than he is, but then you say to yourself 'everyone's experiences are different' and you leave it at that.

*You can't see above the clouds, and those big questions of eternity remain*

The reason is that you have never come to Christ and the cross to confess and turn from that independent spirit. There has been no conviction of sin. There's been no tears, no bowing of the knee, no deep bothering of conscience, no brokenness.

The truth is that without the cross what you have is really not different from the religions that fill the world. The true God remains for you the unknown God x2

If that is you then you are still on the broad road, you are not alone for many are on it. It has a clean side and a dirty side, but it still the broad road that leads to destruction. It has to. For without the cross, without your sinful heart and actions confessed and turned from – then God's wrath remains on you. x2

In His word, as we have seen this morning, God points to Jesus Christ and Him crucified. This is what has been preached for the last 2000 years. Jesus Christ and Him crucified, the one **who came into this world - to save sinners**.

That is what the cross is all about. There is no other way. Do not join with those who said to Jesus, come down from the cross and we will believe in you.

To continue in a cross-less faith is to be like the blind man staggering towards the cliff edge. Cling to the cross, grasp the one who hung there.

Look to the cross, then you will see how serious sin is, for it was no less than the eternal Son of God to bore it for me. suffered for me. went through tremendous agony – for me.

Then you will see things differently, and acknowledge that up till now my life has been lived with myself as Lord. I have sung the hymns, I have said the 'amens' I have even said 'Jesus is Lord', and yet I have lived in a way contrary to the Lord.

- **If that is you then for the first time in your life confront the reality and dreadfulness of my your, confess that darkness that is your heart.**

Look to Christ the Righteous One, God the Son, spat upon, hit, mocked and hated. Jesus Christ who left the glories of heaven for the cross, - for me. Turn in your heart, turn in direction, turn in your desire, and repent of all that you know to be wrong. And the moment you do so you will be filled with Joy.

- *In times of revival there were tears during the preaching, people left in silence. They would stop, and in tears confess their sins and be quite changed in character. Others began to pray regularly; and to seek salvation in earnest. That is the sign that the Lord is at work in you.*

Those years of indifference towards God and his Son have been cleared away. That cloud of Judgment that hung over me has gone – for Christ took it. That escape from sin that you could do nothing about - Christ did.

**“The Lord will provide” x2. On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided. In Isa 2:2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.** Yes Hallelujah, I am one of those, have you? Can you say that?

**On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.** Isa 25:7,8a

Here is the way of life eternal life - The Lord – He has provided.

*And if you are saved* then consider the wonderful blessing of being in Jesus

If you are saved you too like Abraham are chosen of the Lord. God has set his love upon you, he has given you grace, the gift of righteousness, something you have freely received by faith. You did not do it, the Lord, He gave it.

The Lord has saved His people out of this world, His Holy people, to carry the message of His saviour Son to the lost. We are to say “the Lord has done everything, all that is necessary, “Now come, for the feast is ready”.

**On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.** Isa 25:6

We are to speak for Him, to live for Him. He has saved you that He will be honoured by your life. To use what he has given you as obedient servants.

- *Our holiday home was perched on the side of a mountain, a good 1000 feet up. There was a pathway down to the sea. That was a lot of steps! It was quite a climb. It made me think of doing what I could will I still have the strength. Thank you Lord I am able to do this, could I do this in five years time? Soon it will be too late.*
- **Do what you can, while you can, for soon it will be too late.**
- *All around were vines. They were adorned with hanging clusters of grapes. It made me think that Jesus is the true vine and to be rooted in him then he expects fruit, he will be looking for fruit lives.*

If you are saved then there is work to do, once we were idling away producing nothing good with our lives - now we are put to work in the Lord's vineyard. That is to bring unsaved sinners to the cross, that is every believer's work. **END**