

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

RELATIONSHIPS THAT PLEASE GOD

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PART 4A: THE FAMILY

We are now going to take a look at Abraham's family and the next three generations. It is interesting to note that the family didn't have a last name and each of the family members were only known by their first name.

- ❖ Isaac was born 2,048 years after God had created Adam and Eve.
- ❖ Jesus was born in the flesh 2,054 years after the birth of Isaac.

If we use God's time table as recorded in 2 Peter 3:8, Isaac was born two days after Adam and Jesus was born two days after Isaac.

My conclusion is that it would take some 2,000 years (two days) to prepare the descendants of Abraham to receive the Messiah and set the stage in the world to receive a Saviour for all mankind.

LIFE AFTER THE BIRTH OF ISAAC

The first few years after the birth of Isaac were happy but that would not last because Ishmael wasn't pleased with Isaac and the tension rose in the household. **Genesis 21:5-10**

When there is sin in the camp, peace is gone and there is nothing but strife. Abraham grieved over the situation because both boys were his sons. **verse 11**

God intervened and told Abraham to send Ishmael away with Hagar since reconciliation was not possible and Ishmael and Isaac had to be separated. **verses 12-13**

When we read the Bible, it is obvious that Abraham wanted Hagar and Ishmael to die. Instead of sending them away back to Egypt with animals to ride on and enough food and water to last through the desert, he sent Hagar out with just one bottle of water and some bread. It was a death march into the hot desert. Hagar must have been scared and feared death if she stayed with Abraham, so she went into the desert ready to die. **verses 14-16**

We can see by the way Abraham tried to solve the conflict between Sarah and Hagar that he hadn't learned there are consequences to sin which cannot be solved in the flesh but must be taken care of in the spirit world by the Holy Spirit. It took the divine intervention of God to save the lives of Hagar and Ishmael. **verses 17-21**

THE ULTIMATE TEST OF ABRAHAM

Sarah was not part of the final test. She had leveled out and become stagnate and was not able to grow spiritually beyond this level. Jesus told us some 2,000 years later about spiritual growth and commitment. **Matthew 13:18-23**



God told Abraham to take Isaac, the long awaited heir, and go to a mountain and sacrifice him. **Genesis 22:1-2**

Abraham was not to discuss this with Sarah because she would have become hysterical, nor was he to talk to anyone else about it. I'm sure Abraham had to muster up all of the faith that he had in God. **verse 3**

For three days and three nights Abraham must have been in a battle that no human being can understand. As they travelled, he saw Isaac talk and laugh with the young men accompanying them, knowing that he would not be with them on the return trip. It was complete agony waiting 25 years for Isaac and then being told by God to sacrifice him. **verses 3**

Abraham told his servant that he and Isaac would be back which indicated that he believed that God would give him a miracle in some way. **verses 4-5**

Abraham laid the wood upon the shoulders of Isaac which shows us that he must have been in his mid or late teens and was strong enough to overpower his father if he so wanted when he asked Abraham about the lamb for the sacrifice. **verses 6-7**

*Abraham spoke the words in faith that God would provide! **verse 8***

TOTAL SURRENDER

Abraham had to surrender his son and Isaac had to surrender himself. Both did this in total obedience with no struggle or fighting words. They recognized that God was supreme and gets whatever He wants! **verse 9**

It wasn't until the last second when Abraham lifted the knife and was ready to plunge it into Isaac's chest that God intervened. The test was over. **verse 11-12**

God provided a ram to be sacrificed, and 2,000 years later, God would provide His only begotten son, Jesus, to be the final sacrifice for all sins of mankind. **verses 13-18; John 3:16**

The testing was over for Abraham, his faith had been established, and the foundation for the coming people known as the children of Israel had been laid.

The Bible doesn't tell us if Abraham and Isaac ever told Sarah what took place on the mountain in Moriah. We know Isaac was 37 years old when his mother died and God gave Sarah some 20 years more with Isaac after the sacrificial test. The Bible is silent on what happened during these years; Abraham's mission was fulfilled with the exception of finding a wife for Isaac. **Genesis 23:1-2**

Abraham must have grieved heavily over losing Sarah because their marriage had lasted more than a hundred years. **verses 3-4**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?