

Isaac, the Son of Promise

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The story of Isaac is a story of a child promised by God. God promised Abraham that he would have a son, and heir and that through his seed all nations would be blessed.
- B. In this lesson, we will consider the story of Isaac and show four lessons to learn from this story.
- C. Let us begin with the promise of Isaac's birth.

I. ISAAC WAS A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED CHILD.

- A. On several occasions, God promised to give Abraham a child.
 - 1. Abraham was 75 years old, the Lord promised to make Abraham a great nation. (Genesis 12:1-4)
 - 2. God promised to make Abraham's descendants as the dust of the earth. (Genesis 13:14-16)
 - 3. The Lord told Abraham that his heir would come from his own body. (Genesis 15:1-6)
 - 4. When Abraham was 99 years old, the Lord promised to multiply Abraham exceedingly. The child would be born the following year. (Genesis 17:1-8, 21)
 - 5. When Abraham was 99 years old, the Lord told Abraham that the following year would bring the birth of the child. (Genesis 17:21)
- B. Just as God had promised, Sarah gave birth to a child, Isaac. (Genesis 21:1-7)

II. ISAAC AS A CHILD.

- A. When Sarah weaned Isaac, Abraham made a great feast on the same day. At that feast Ishmael was scoffing or mocking Isaac. (Genesis 21:8-9)
- B. At an unstated age, Abraham took Isaac to offer him on an altar to God. (Genesis 22:1-19)

III. ISAAC AS AN ADULT.

- A. At the age of 37 years old, Isaac suffered the loss of his mother. (Genesis 23:1-2)
- B. Three years later, Isaac married Rebekah. (Genesis 25:20; 24:1-67)
- C. At the age of 59 years old, Isaac prayed for Rebekah to have a child. (Genesis 25:19-26)

- D. At the age of 60 years old, Isaac's sons were born. Rebekah gave birth to Jacob and Esau. Isaac loved Esau and Rebekah loved Jacob. (Genesis 25:26)
- E. Some time later, a famine struck the land. Isaac took his family to Gerar during the famine. (Genesis 26:1-33)
- F. At the age of 100 years old, Esau brought grief to Isaac and Sarah by marrying daughters from the Hittites. (Genesis 26:34-35)
- G. At a later point in Isaac's life, Jacob and Rebekah tricked Isaac into giving Jacob the birth right. (Genesis 27:1-40)
- H. Isaac sent Jacob to the house of Bethuel to find a wife. (Genesis 27:41 - 28:5)
- I. At the age of 180 years old, Isaac died. (Genesis 35:27-29)

IV. LESSONS LEARNED FROM ISAAC.

- A. Children are to obey their parents in the Lord.
 - 1. Isaac trusted in his father's trust in the Lord. Isaac obeyed Abraham, carrying the supplies to the sacrifice. (Genesis 22:5-8)
 - 2. Children, like Isaac, you too are to trust your parent and obey them. However, your obedience to your parents is to be "in the Lord." (Ephesians 6:1-3)
- B. Do not show partiality towards your children.
 - 1. Isaac loved Esau and Rebekah loved Jacob. (Genesis 25:19-26)
 - 2. Paul told fathers not to provoke their children to wrath. (Ephesians 6:4) However, if a father loves one child above another, and shows that love, then that father will surely provoke their child to wrath.
 - 3. Mothers are told to love their children. (Titus 2:3-5)
 - 4. Unbalanced love for your children will hinder your child's development. Each child must feel that he is unconditionally love by his or her parents. If a child perceives that his or her sibling is treated with more love, care, and concern, then that child may feel neglected and resentful towards the favored sibling.
- C. It does not pay to tell a lie.
 - 1. Isaac lied about his relationship with Rebekah. Abimelech discovered Isaac's lie. (Genesis 26:6-11)
 - 2. No matter how many times we try to conceal the truth, our lie will always be revealed. (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8)
- D. Help our children to pick a suitable spouse.

1. Isaac sent Jacob to find a suitable spouse. (Genesis 27:41 - 28:5)
2. The New Testament scriptures say nothing about parents choosing spouses for their children. The New Testament does not forbid a Christian from marrying an unbeliever.
3. **HOWEVER**, as parents, we should do all that we can to help prepare our children for picking the right mate. Consider the following examples.
 - a. Set the right examples for your children.
 - b. Look for a mate who will support you spiritually, in your service to God.
 - c. Look for a husband who will do all that he can to support you financially.
 - d. Look for a wife who will manage the home.
 - e. Look for a spouse who possess the same moral values as you do.
 - f. Look for a spouse who is willing to put your needs first and whose needs you would be willing to put first.
 - g. Look for a mate who you believe would be a good father or mother to your children.

CONCLUSION.

- A. I am certain that there are other lessons to be learned from the life of Isaac. I have presented these four for your consideration.
 1. Children are to obey their parents in the Lord.
 2. Do not show partiality towards your children.
 3. It does not pay to tell a lie.
 4. Help our children to pick a suitable spouse.
- B. If you are not a Christian, make the decision to turn to Jesus Christ today.
 1. God promised Isaac that through his seeds all nations of the earth would be blessed. (Genesis 26:4) This promise was fulfilled when Jesus Christ died on the cross of calvary.
 2. Turn to Jesus Christ today and become one of God's children.
 - a. Hear the gospel of Christ. (Romans 10:17)
 - b. Believe in Jesus as the Son of God. (John 3:16; Mark 16:16)

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- c. Repent of your sins. (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38)
- d. Confess your belief in Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)
- e. Be baptized into Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27)

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