

Preparation for Godly Marriage
Part 10

In response to God's call and at the age of seventy five years old Abraham left his country and his father house and went to a place that God showed him to go. Abraham when God called him was childless, so he resorted to have children from Hagar the servant of his wife. At the age of 86 Abraham got Ishmael from Hagar. At the age of 100 Abraham got Isaac from his wife Sarah. At the age of 102 Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away in respond to God's command.

"1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 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." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 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. 14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba. 20 Some time later Abraham was told, "Milkah is also a mother; she has borne sons to your brother Nahor: 21 Uz the firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel (the father of Aram), 22 Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph and Bethuel." 23 Bethuel became the father of Rebekah. Milkah bore these eight sons to Abraham's brother Nahor. 24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also had sons: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maakah." (Genesis 22:1-24)

Abraham in the above passage was tested by the Lord. At that time his age was around 115-120 years old. He had his only son Isaac, and here God asked him to offer him to God as a

burnt offering. Abraham obeyed God and he imparted obedience to God in the life of his son Isaac.

In preparing for Godly marriage parents should train their children to obey God so that their future will be secured and to be living within Godly families. In preparation for Godly marriage from the chosen passage of Genesis 22 we can conclude the following important lessons:-

1- Parents obedience is essentials: Abraham obeyed God's command immediately and willingly to offer his son Isaac as burnt offering. Abraham was willing to travel a journey of three days and to climb a mountain to reach the place that God asked him to reach. Even in that old age he was diligent and not lazy. He was not controlled by his heart feelings or emotions to withhold Isaac from being offered to God. That had left a good template for Isaac to follow and to live his life in total obedience to God.

2- Parents should lead their children into the right faith: Abraham led his son Isaac to the right place of worship and taught him the sincere faith. Abraham brought Isaac to the region of Moriah, the same place where our Lord Jesus crucified. The worship on that mountain was complete. Two people they came to do the whole will and the command of God. God the Father was there, the angel of the Lord. God the Son was there, symbolize by the ram, the lamb of God. God the Holy Spirit was there, symbolize by the fire. God's word was there, symbolize by the knife. God's church, ministry setup and discipline were there, symbolize by the altar that Abraham built and bound his son on. Children should be trained that in trials and time of testing that God should be honored, and that God will provide but they need to obey first. ***"7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.*** Abraham answer to his son Isaac's question was clear and Isaac accepted gladly what his father spoke to him. Jesus laid his life in obedience to God the father, and Isaac was willing to lay his life in obedience to his father Abraham as his father Abraham was obeying God the Father.

3- Parents should help their children to reach the good plan that God had for them: Many they think that good future will meet their children if they will give them good food and spend on them and put them in good school and make them finish colleges. These are important things but all are non-essential. To train them and enable them to do and obey God's will is essential and that what is needed. Isaac was in need for his father to lead him and make him climb the mount of Moriah and would need him to bind him on the altar. Children cannot do such things without the help of their parents or their spiritual parents. Children should be trained, that in trials and the time of testing, God will provide but after they had obeyed. ***"13 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."***

4- Obedient parents would be able to see the good plan of God to their children: God promised Abraham on that setup, ***"17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."*** This plan would come true and possible

through Isaac when Isaac would have a Godly family. For Isaac to have a Godly family, he should have suitable partner to help him to achieve that. We had read at the end of **Genesis 22** that **Abraham was told, "Milkah is also a mother; she has borne sons to your brother Nahor: 21 Uz the firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel (the father of Aram), 22 Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph and Bethuel."** **23 Bethuel became the father of Rebekah. Milkah bore these eight sons to Abraham's brother Nahor. 24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also had sons: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maakah."** Rebekah name was mentioned as a descendant from Nahor the brother of Abraham. God prepared Rebekah to be a wife to Isaac. Therefore when Abraham and Isaac obeyed God and did his will, the Lord revealed this information to Abraham and unfolded to him the good plan that he has for his son, Isaac. At that time when Abraham offered Isaac, Isaac was around 15-20 years old. Isaac married Rebekah at the age of forty years. So you can conclude here that as you are willingly to obey the Lord, then He will reveal to you the good plan that He has for your children even ahead of time.

My dear and beloved: The Lord has always a good plan for your children, and this plan will be unfold and come true only when you fully obey Him and do His will in raising up your children in full obedience to the Lord as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. I humble myself before you and before your command. Lord I commit myself to fully obey you and to raise up my children in a Godly way, disciplining them and training them in the fear of the Lord. Lord as I do that, open my eyes to see the good plan that you have for my children. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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