

Sermon Outlines

Isaac - Genesis 21

Introduction

Isaac is mentioned 112 times in 105 verses in the Old Testament and 20 times in 18 verses in the New Testament.

- a) He lived longer than Abraham, Jacob, or Joseph.
 - i) Abraham lived for 175 years (Gen. 25:7); Jacob lived 147 years (Gen. 47:28); Joseph lived 110 years (Gen. 50:22); and Isaac lived 180 years (Gen. 35:28).
 - ii) Although Isaac lived the longest, there is the least written about him.
 1. The story of Abraham takes 15 chapters; Jacob takes 14 chapters; Joseph takes 13 chapters; and Isaac takes 1 chapter.
 - iii) This leads to the first lesson: "How is life to be measured?"
 1. By Duration? Methuselah lived 969 years (Gen. 5:27). Nothing is recorded of his entire life's duration.
 2. By prosperity? Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar were great kings of Babylon but the principal things remembered about them were:
 - (a) Nebuchadnezzar rejected God and became like an animal (Dan. 5:20-21).
 - (b) Belshazzar died after a drunken orgy (Dan. 5:30).
 - (c) By Spirituality? The Lord and Paul tell us how to live for the eternal unseen things (2 Cor. 4:18).
- b) Not much is written about him.
 - i) He was the very ordinary son of a great father, possibly living in the shadow of His father, pressured by others with high expectations for him, possibly a disappointment to himself and others.
 - ii) He was the very ordinary father of a great son.

His Character

- 1) It appears that there was not much "fight" in him for, although he dug four wells, when the Philistines came, they blocked the wells and Isaac just accepted defeat.
 - a) No fight in this man (Gen. 26:20-21). Judges chapters 1-2 the children of Israel did gain their full inheritance.
- 2) Isaac followed the same errors his father did.
 - a) Abraham went to Abimelech, King of Gerar, having his wife profess to be his sister (Gen. 20:2).
 - b) Isaac told the men of Gerar, "she is my sister" (Gen. 26:7).
 - i. The believer, can tell lies.
 - (a) Lie verbally or take the name of the Lord in vain verbally (Ex. 20:7; Psa. 139:20) or to take the name of the Lord in vain by activity (Prov. 30:9).
 - (b) Exaggerations and distorted truths, I'll pray for you and then forget.
 - c) His affections.
 - i. He had a special love for Esau, even though God had said that the elder shall serve the younger (Gen. 25:23; Rom. 9:12).
 - ii. He had an appetite for the flesh, and Jacob his son knew how to appeal to his natural appetite.

His eyes were dim, he could not see.

His senses:

- a) His eyes were dim, he was blind (Gen. 27:1).
 - i) Eli - His eyes were dim he could not see (1 Sam 3:2; 4:15).
 - ii) Samson had his eyes put out, he could not see (Jud. 16:21).
 - iii) Zedekiah had his eyes put out and could not see (Jer. 52:11).
 - iv) Pharisees (Jn. 9:40-41).
 - v) Laodicea (Rev. 3:18).
 - vi) The saints to whom Peter wrote (2 Pet. 1:9).

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The Great Discovery

Overall a disappointing man and then we discover that in the New Testament he is viewed in two ways.

- a) Typically
 - i) He is a prefigure of the Lord.
 - ii) He is a prototype of a believer as one born after the spirit (Gal. 4:28).

- b) A prototype of the believer.
 - iii) The Spirit deals with what he was, rather than on what he did. The Holy Spirit deals with:
 1. The way he was born, the circumstances surrounding his birth, and the place he had in the father's heart.
 - (a) Issac was born after the spirit (Gal. 4:29).
 - (b) Ishmael was born after the flesh (Gal. 4:29).

- (c) A picture of the Lord:
 - i) Announced before his birth (Gen. 17:19).
 - ii) Named before his birth (Gen. 17:19cp; Matt. 1:20-21).
 - iii) Great joy at his birth (Gen. 21:6).
 - iv) He is the only child in the Old Testament where the story of his circumcision is told as taking place on the 8th day (Gen. 21:4. Cp; Lk. 2:21).
 - v) An everlasting covenant was established with him (Gen. 17:7, 8; 21:23).
 - vi) He went up to the place of sacrifice in fellowship with his father (Gen. 22:6).
 - vii) In Genesis 22 He is seen as the Son (Gen. 22:6-10).
 - viii) He gets His bride after the death of his fathers, Abraham's wife dies (Gen. 24:67).
 - ix) The promises are resident on a man-child coming out of death.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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