

Isaac

Genesis 21:3

What a joy it is to come to you today and share with you, "It's a Good Life," and we know that it is a good life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me once again invite you to view our website, www.LRWM.org. On that website, you'll see a place where you can leave prayer requests. Also leave your blessings, if you would, and let us share the good things that have happened in your life.

And speaking of blessings, what a blessing it is to me to receive information from individuals who are listening to the program. Why not be a blessing to me today and go to the website and send me an email, and let me know that you're listening today. Or you can write me: Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

Thank you for being a blessing to me today by listening and also by writing with an email or writing using the postal service to let me know that you're listening today.

In the book of Genesis chapter 21, we're going to read in verse 3 there. It says, *And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.* Now, in this section of Scripture, we want to compare Isaac to Christ. Isaac, you see, is a type of Christ. We want to look briefly at the leading points of the resemblance between Isaac and Jesus.

First of all, we see the appropriateness of his name. *Isaac* means laughter or rejoicing. *Jesus*, the Messiah, means consolation of Israel. As a redeemer, He is the joy of the whole earth.

In Nehemiah chapter 8, verse 10, the Bible says, *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto*

them for whom nothing is prepared: for [this] day [is] holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. When we need the strength that's often needed in this world, we find that more and more in our lives it seems as we grow older and older that we need more joy. Well, what better place to find the joy than in the Lord. The Bible says there in Nehemiah that the joy of the Lord is our strength. He gives us strength day by day.

And then we see that not only is there appropriateness in the name of *Isaac* as laughter and *Jesus* as bringing joy, we also see that there were peculiar circumstances of the births of these two. It was specifically predicted.

Isaac, in Genesis chapter 17, verse 16, the Bible says, *And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her....* Now this is God speaking to Abraham, telling him that He was going to bless Sarah. And He says, *[Y]ea, I will bless her, and she shall be [a mother] of nations; kings of people shall be of her.*

In verse 13 of Genesis chapter 18, it says, *And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?* We see there that Sarah didn't exactly believe that God would be able to give her a son, and we understand that it would be hard for a person to understand, as old as these two people were, and we also understand that when Isaac was born Abraham was a hundred years old. Sarah was no spring chicken. She was up in years, ninety years old or so. We're told that she was very old, and she gave birth to a son. This was actually a peculiar circumstance.

And then we see that the prophets bear witness of Jesus in Micah chapter 5, verse 2, *But thou,*

Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting.

Now, we understand that Jesus has always been as God, because it says in John chapter 1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* And of course, as we study the Bible, we understand that the Word was none other than Jesus.

But notice here the extraordinary birth of Isaac. The mother of Isaac was past the age of childbearing. In Hebrews chapter 11, verse 11, it says, *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*

Now, earlier, we read that she had laughed originally, and this shows us the human part of Sarah coming out. She was human just like you and I, and there are certain things that we find hard to believe when God promises something to us, but we need to be faithful and believe God when He says He's going to do something.

And we see that in Hebrews chapter 11, verse 11, Sarah actually received strength and actually believed God that He was going to perform that which He said He would do, and that would be an extraordinary thing of giving her a son.

Then we see that not only was the birth of Isaac extraordinary, but we see that the birth of Jesus was still more astounding. He was born of a virgin. According to Isaiah chapter 7, verse 14, it says, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Look in the book of Luke with me in chapter 1. In that chapter, we read beginning in verse 30,

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

This, of course, is speaking of her Son Jesus. Jesus' birth was outstanding. It was a miraculous birth. A virgin would conceive and bear a Son.

Now, Isaac's birth was connected with great joy. We've already read how that the joy of the Lord is your strength, and in Genesis chapter 21, verse 6, the Bible says, *And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, [so that] all that hear will laugh with me.* The name *Isaac* means laughter.

So I believe not only did Sarah understand the great promise of God here, but she was also excited. She was waiting for the birth of her son.

In Luke chapter 2, we read in verse 10, *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.* Verse 13 says, *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* Yes, great joy came with the birth of Isaac, but even greater joy came with the birth of Jesus.

And notice here, something else that took place in the life of Isaac. He was intentionally offered as a sacrifice. In Genesis, chapter 22, verse 2, the Bible says, *And he said, Take now thy son.... This is God talking to Abraham... thine only [son] Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*

And of course, we see here how that Abraham believed God. He took his son. He was going to offer him on the altar of sacrifice, but we see that there was actually a sacrifice that was substituted for Isaac, because as we read on, we understand that in Genesis chapter 22, verse 13, it says, *And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind [him] a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.* God had provided a sacrifice. God had provided a substitute for Abraham's son, Isaac.

But, you know, there was no substitute offered for Jesus. Jesus took upon Himself the cross. He took upon Himself the death of the cross, and we understand that this was a great sacrifice. The Bible tells us that no man has ever loved like Jesus loved. Although Isaac laid down his life, he voluntarily lay down and let his father tie him up, and he was getting ready to be offered, but he wasn't offered because God provided another sacrifice. He provided a ram that was caught in the thickets there. And Jesus went to the cross, but there was no substitute for Him. He died the horrible death of the cross.

In Genesis chapter 22, verses 1 and 2, the Bible tells us once again that Abraham was to take his son and offer him as a sacrifice. As we look at this again, our thoughts go to Jesus. He was devoted to His Father; He was sacrificed by His Father; and it says in John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten*

Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In Romans chapter 8, verse 32, it says, *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Do you know Christ today as your Savior? Have you trusted Him today to lead you? If you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you need to do so right now. We're not promised tomorrow. The Bible says, *For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour; that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away [James 4:14].*

Our Father, I pray this time for that individual listening, Lord, who has never trusted Jesus as Savior. I pray that individual right now would say, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you as my Lord and my Savior. I believe you died for me on the cross. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my heart and saving me." And Lord, I pray for that saved person today who needs an extra special touch from You. I pray that You would help that individual to be strong to serve You today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank you for listening today. Let me invite you once again to view our website, www.LRWM.org. Leave us your prayer requests. Look around on the website. You'll find some Bible helps and study helps on that page. You will also find some of the broadcasts that we have brought to you on "It's a Good Life."

Thank you for listening today, and remember to tune in next week at this same time for "It's a Good Life." May the Lord bless you is my prayer.