

MAROBRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – JUNE-JULY 2023

4. Abraham – His Commitment to God

Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:8-19

Introduction

- Abraham, the man who supremely KNEW what it meant to 'work out' his 'salvation' with 'FEAR AND TREMBLING" (Philippians 2:12)
 - the dilemma that confronted him:
 - **Option 1:** If he refused to obey God's command to sacrifice Isaac he would jeopardise the outcome of God's sovereign Plan as stated in Genesis 18:18-19
 - **Option 2:** If he obeyed God's command to sacrifice Isaac he would jeopardise the outcome of God's Promise as stated in Genesis 12:1-2
 - a man 'caught between a rock and hard place'
 - Which option would YOU choose?
 - the comment by the Author of Hebrews:

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." (Hebrews 11:17-19)

The Gruellingly Tense Journey to Mount Moriah

- God's command (verse 2)

"Take your **son**, ... ('Surely he must mean Ishmael' ...)
your **only** son, ... ('For 15 years Ishmael was my only son')
whom you **love**, ... ('Oh, how I love Ishmael')
... .. **Isaac**, ... ('Oh, no! How can this be!?) ...
and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."
- Abraham's early start (verse 3a)

- Abraham's complete equipment (verses 3a, 7)
 - a donkey, 2 servants, wood, fire, ... and Isaac!
- the **three day** journey (verse 4)
- Isaac's perfectly reasonable question: (verse 7)
 - "Where is the **lamb** for a burnt offering?"
- Abraham's answer: (verse 8)
 - "God will provide himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

What do we learn from Abraham?

- The importance of **trusting God wholly, and unconditionally in the dark**
 - cf Hebrews 11:1 – "Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and certain of what we **do not see**."
 - the Hebrew word for '**Why**' is literally '**For what?**'
- The **provision** God has made for us of the **Sacrificial Lamb**
 - who was **his 'Only Son', whom he loved**
 - so that **we** can walk **free**
 - the absolute importance of the Doctrine of **Substitutionary Atonement**

There was one who was willing to die in my stead
that a soul so unworthy might live;
and the path to the Cross he was willing to tread
all the sins of my life to forgive.
- 'Jehovah Jireh' – "The LORD **will provide**" (Genesis 22:14)
 - Do **WE** have this level of trust and commitment?