

Meditation on Genesis 26:5

This scripture is talking about the humble submissive lifestyle of Abraham.

Remember Abraham had a personal relationship with God as we are able to have through faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us as our Saviour and Mediator [High Priest].

Genesis 12:1 [NIV] *"The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."*

Abraham started on this journey **not** knowing the final destination, that's faith in God.

Genesis 12:5 [NIV] *"He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there."*

Told only once he had obeyed, in faith, and was on the journey.

Genesis 12:7 [NIV] *"The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him."*

Built an altar for an animal sacrifice. Why?

John 8:56 [NIV] *"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."*

Abraham knew that Jesus Christ [the seed] would one day be sacrificed for all humanity.

This was part of the promise that God had made to Abraham.

This is why Abraham was willing to offer for sacrifice his only son, Isaac, as a reflection of what God would do.

Genesis 22:1-8 [NIV] *"Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 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." 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, 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?" Abraham answered, "**God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**" And the two of them went on together."*

Referring directly to Jesus Christ.

Genesis 22:9-14 [NIV] *"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. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "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." 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. 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."

God did provide the sacrifice.

Genesis 22:18 [NIV] *"and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."*

The promise of Jesus Christ [seed] was confirmed by God.

"charge" [Hebrew "mishmereth"] – observance or ordinance, what God told Abraham to do he did instantly.

Genesis 26:5 [King James] *"Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."*

"commandments" [Hebrew "mitzvâh"] – **not** once is it recorded that Abraham disobeyed God's instructions, but **Genesis 26:5** does **not** say that Abraham kept a set of laws such as the Ten Commandments.

Galatians 3:16-17 [NIV] *"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds", meaning many people, but "and to your seed", meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: **The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.**"*

Abraham had faith in God well before the law was given through Moses to a nation for which it is designed.

"statutes" [Hebrew "chugqâh"] – decrees – appointments – what was to be fulfilled. **Abraham's life was one that constantly submitting to God's will.**

"laws" [Hebrew "tôrâh"] – teaching – instructions.

Abraham always followed what God taught him. He was very teachable, trusting what God said was best for him and his family.

What was the sin mentioned in Genesis?

The word mainly used is "chât'â – or derivatives of that word, meaning to "miss the mark", falling short of what is desired.

Refers to a specific thought, word or deed **not** a general condition of rebellion [Hebrew "râa"] or perverseness [Hebrew "Āvon"].

Hebrews 11:8-11 [NIV] *"**By faith** Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. **By faith** he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **By faith** Abraham, even though he was past age, and Sarah herself was barren, was enabled to become a father because **he considered him faithful who had made the promise.**"*

We all know that there are consequences to any action we take. What we can do is set into motion a series of events that may continue long after we have died.

Abraham had a choice to make in his life.

Did he follow God's command to set out with his family to places unknown or stay right where he was?

A choice between security he already had or the uncertainty of travelling to an unknown land.

All Abraham had to go on was God's promise to guide and bless him in the future.

Such a decision of faith could only be the result of an intimate relationship with God.

James 2:23-24 [NIV] *“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.”*

Abraham was a friend of God, one who had spent a lifetime in God's presence.

This is how Abraham had such great faith in his all powerful friend.

Abraham could hardly have been able to visualise how much of the future of humanity was resting on his decision to go or stay, but his faithful, trusting obedience affected the history of the world.

Through Abraham's obedience to his long-time friend, the Creator God set in motion the development of a nation that God would eventually use as His own when He visited earth Himself.

When Jesus Christ came to earth, God's promise to bless all humanity through Abraham's faithfulness was fulfilled.

Genesis 26:5 [NIV] *“because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.”*

This verse is a summary of the faithful life of Abraham.

A life that was based on an intimate relationship with our Creator God which is available to all humanity today because of the “seed” [Jesus Christ] that was the end product of Abraham's trust in God.