

## Isaac and Christ: A Comparison

Text: Genesis 17 – 18, 21 – 22, 24

### Introduction:

1. Though Isaac is never specified as a type of Christ, there are many similarities between the two that are worth serious consideration.
2. In fact, part of Isaac's role in the book of Genesis is to teach and illustrate the characteristics of the son of promise.
3. Thus, many of the details of his life foreshadow the life of the Messiah.

### I. Similarities in Birth

- A. Both were born as sons of promise.
  1. Isaac was promised to his parents (Genesis 17:1-19; 18:1-15).
  2. Jesus was promised to the world (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 3:16; 4:4-5).
- B. Both were named before they were born (Genesis 17:19; Matthew 1:21-23).
- C. Both were born due to divine action.
  1. Isaac was born in his parents' old age (Genesis 17:17; 18:11-14; Romans 4:18-21; Hebrews 11:11-12).
  2. Jesus was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 31:22; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35).
- D. Both brought joy with their births.
  1. Isaac brought joy to his parents (Genesis 21:1-7).
  2. Jesus brought joy to the world (Luke 2:8-14; etc.).

### II. Similarities in Life

- A. Both sought for a pure and holy bride.
  1. At Abraham's instruction, Rebekah was found (Genesis 24).
  2. At God's instruction, the church is found (Ephesians 5:25-27).
- B. Both had only one wife.
  1. Rebekah (Genesis 24:67)
  2. The church (Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23ff)
- C. Both lived in obedience to God's will and respected His boundaries.
  1. Isaac never left the land of Canaan (Genesis 26:1-6).
  2. Jesus never turned from the will of God (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22).

### III. Similarities in Sacrifice

- A. Both were not spared by their fathers.
  1. Abraham sacrificed Isaac (Genesis 22:1-12; Hebrews 11:17-19).
  2. God, the Father sacrificed His Son (John 3:16).
- B. Both were men of age, but submissive to their fathers' will.
  1. Isaac was around 30, but submitted (Genesis 22:9).
  2. Jesus was around 33, but submitted (Luke 22:42).
- C. Both carried the wood for their sacrifice (Genesis 22:6; John 19:17).
- D. Both were returned to their fathers.
  1. Isaac was raised from the dead in a figure (Hebrews 11:17-19).
  2. Jesus was raised from the dead in reality (Mark 16:6, 9; Daniel 7:13-14).
- E. There is one important contrast between the two.
  1. There was a substitute provided for Isaac – a ram (Genesis 22:13-14).
  2. Jesus is the substitute for all men (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-22; Revelation 13:8).