**Genesis 22 - Jesus Died “In The Stead Of” Us**

We’re all familiar with the Genesis 22 story (and typology) of God asking Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a burnt sacrifice. We also know from texts like John 1:29 which teach Jesus is the “Lamb of God” that all animal sacrifices in the Old Testament were a type of Christ. That would of course include the ram that ended up being sacrificed in Genesis 22:13 “in the stead of” Isaac. Let’s don’t overlook the significance of this “instead of” concept. As Maurice Barnett wrote in Gospel Truths in June 2012 - “Certainly, the ram was killed on the altar **in the place of** Isaac because the text says so.”

So if the ram (being a sacrifice) was a type of Christ, what would that make Isaac in the typology? Wouldn’t Isaac in a sense represent us? Just as Isaac was the one who was supposed to die that day but the text says the ram died instead, we are the ones who are supposed to die (spiritually) for our sins (Rom 6:23) but Christ the lamb dies (physically) instead of us (I Corinthians 15:3). This is what is meant by Jesus’ “Substitutionary” death. Our sins were laid on Jesus instead of on us (Isaiah 53:6c); he became a curse instead of us (Galatians 3:13).

The ram dying in the place of Isaac then is a type of Christ (Heb 10:1) - therefore Christ died in place of us. See the proof? In order to oppose this argument, one gospel preacher (Gantt Carter) responded in an email to me on 4-26-2017: “I don't believe that ‘any sacrifice before Jesus was a type.’" Gantt’s problem was - how would you find a verse that teaches one animal sacrifice was a type of Christ, but another (i.e. Gen 22:13) was not? It appears he feels forced to this conclusion. That’s what this controversy has come to. In order to consistently oppose the Bible’s teaching on the Substitutionary Death Of Christ, a person has to deny that “any sacrifice before Jesus was a type.” Doesn’t that fly in the face of passages like Isaiah 53:7, I Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 14:4, and the texts we’ve already mentioned?

I think we all agree Abraham’s response to Isaac in verse 8 “God will provide himself a lamb” was not only a reference to the ram caught in the thicket in verse 13, but also has the double meaning of God providing a lamb (Jesus) to take care of our sins. Because of our sins, we are hopelessly lost and on the way to spending eternity in a burning fire with the devil, and there is no way we can solve this problem on our own. So God solved the problem for us! Louis Berkhof’s comment says it well: “God might have demanded a personal atonement of the sinner, but **the latter would not have been able to render it**.” God provided the solution – Jesus the Lamb of God. And if we take advantage of that by trusting and obeying (II Thessalonians 1:8), now our relationship with God is restored and we are on our way to spending eternity with God in heaven. We should be so thankful Jesus died for our sins (instead of us having to do so) – that we are willing to serve him with all our heart and soul (Deuteronomy 10:12).