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Sermon Notes

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The Gospel Acted Out in Types

Genesis 22

Introduction: Types and Fulfillment

A. The Purpose of History

Does an individual life and human decisions have any ultimate significance or purpose?

Larger question, “Is there any meaning and purpose to history?” Can we look back on the developments of human events and find some purpose there? Are we heading anywhere?

Some say NO!!

B. Jacques Monod: Chance and Necessity

French molecular biologist; won Nobel prize in 1965 for discovering the replication mechanism of genetic material and the manner in which cells synthesize protein

In 1970, published a book called *Chance and Necessity*... became an instant best-seller, although it was far more about philosophy than about his true area of expertise... molecular biology

Monod’s argument in *Chance and Necessity* was very complex and relied on much data and judgment concerning his molecular research... but it was basically a philosophical work about life and purpose

Newsweek magazine summarized it at the time as follows

“After some thirty years of research in biochemistry and genetics, the short trim scientist [Monod] is convinced man’s existence is due to the chance collision between miniscule particles of nucleic acid and proteins in the vast ‘pre-biotic soup.’ Indeed, Monod argues that all life results from the interaction of pure chance—unpredictable mutations—and necessity, or Darwinian selection.”

Monod himself wrote this:

“Chance alone is at the source of every innovation, or all creation in the biosphere. Pure chance, absolutely free but blind, at the very root of the stupendous edifice of evolution: this central concept of modern biology is no longer one among other possible or even conceivable hypotheses. It is today the *sole* conceivable hypothesis, the only one that squares with observed and tested fact. And nothing warrants the supposition—or the hope—that on this score our position is likely ever to be revised.” [*Chance and Necessity*, p. 112-113, quoted in Francis Schaeffer, vol. 1, p. 359]

Monod was willing to push this view to its grim and logical conclusion:

“The universe was not pregnant with life nor the biosphere with man. Our number came up in a Monte Carlo game. It is any wonder if, like the person who has just made a million in the casino, we feel strange and a little unreal?” [p. 145-146]

C. The Bible Says Otherwise!!!

History is a lavish and intricate story being unfolded from the mind of God... it is a complex and majestically beautiful symphony with a spectacular climax in Christ

God has been speaking to the human race, not just in prophetic words but in prophetic pictures

Theologians call them “types”... they are stories, parables, illustrations, acted-out dramas, moments in history that point ahead to the central point... the Cross and Resurrection of Christ

[NASB] *Hebrews 11:17-19* By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; ¹⁸ it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." ¹⁹ He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

D. Types of Christ, patterns of the future gospel

When Noah entered the Ark to save himself and his family from the flood, the Ark was a type of Christ... a picture of the salvation Christ would bring. Inside the Ark, there was safety from the wrath of God... outside the Ark, there was only judgment under the wrath of God

In the story of Abraham offering his son Isaac, we have the most perfect type or picture of Christ in the Old Testament

The purpose of the types was to help the human race identify the Savior, Jesus Christ... and understand His work on the cross so that we might be saved

E. Context

Abraham was called to leave his home country and God made him an amazing promise

Genesis 12:1-3 *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. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Eventually, that wonderful promise came down to one specific boy... a promised son named Isaac

Genesis 17:19 *your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.*

Then one day, a shocking command came from God:

Genesis 22:1-2 *Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ² 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."*

This story makes up the greatest type or picture of Christ in the Old Testament

It is the Gospel acted out in space and time... in history, as an old faith-filled man and his obedient faith-filled son acted out the future death of Christ

It was written down for US, so that we might believe the Gospel and have hope

I. Types Listed and Fulfilled

1. The "Father-Son" Relationship: "Your son, your only son"

vs. 2 *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."*

- a) Human relationships crafted in the Image of God
- b) Human language describes human experience
- c) Earthly father-son relationships help instruct us about heavenly
- d) Cost of the sacrifice hard to describe... the pain, the suffering, the grief

Patrick Morley in his book, *THE MAN IN THE MIRROR*, tells a heart-wrenching story about an ill-fated Alaskan fishing trip. Some fishermen in a small seaplane find a secluded bay where they can fish. They have a great day of pulling in salmon and then return to their plane late in the afternoon. Much to their surprise, they find the aircraft high and dry because of the fluctuating tides. There is no choice but to wait until morning when

incoming tides will make takeoff possible again. The next morning, with the plane afloat, they start the engine and take to the air. Within minutes, however, the plane falls back into the sea. A leak in one of the pontoons lets it fill up with water, and the extra weight causes the plane to crash. The three adult fishermen survive the crash as does Mark, the 12-year-old son of one of the fishermen. After praying, the four abandon the sinking plane and begin to swim toward shore, fighting the cold waters and a vicious riptide as they go. Two of the men, strong swimmers, reach shore exhausted. But looking back out onto the water they see the father cradling his son in his arms as they are swept out to sea. The father could have made shore alone, but his son, much smaller, could not. The father decides to die with his son rather than leave him.

Spurgeon: "We read in ancient story of a father whose two sons were taken prisoners; they were both condemned to die. The old man appeared on the scene to offer up his life — all that he had to offer — and to die himself, if his sons' lives might be spared. For some reason the soldiers, melting to pity, went as far as they could, and told him he might have whichever of his sons he chose to be spared for the ransom. He looked first at one, and then at the other. He would fain say, "Spare that one," but then they would put the other to death; and he would fain say, "Spare this one," but then the other must die. And so the old man alternated between one and the other, undecided which should be released, till both were slain."

One of the most painful, heart-wrenching agonies a father can undergo is to watch the death of his son... more on this theme in a moment

e) "whom you love"... FIRST USE OF "LOVE" IN THE BIBLE

amazing... when we think of love, we tend first to think of a husband and wife... Bible begins with Father-Son love!!!

vs. 2 *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."*

First love mentioned in the New Testament:

Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Note: this is also the first love mentioned in Mark, and Luke as well... the love of the Father for the Son

Theological issue: the foundation of the universe is the love the Father has for the Son

It is also the foundation of God's love for us as Christians

John 17:24-26 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

- f) **FULFILLED**: When God gave up His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ

The first time the word love is used in John's Gospel is different:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

There is a clear parallel established here in Genesis 22: Father and Son...

There is a magnificent detail as well: Father and ONLY BEGOTTEN SON WHOM YOU LOVE

2. Predetermined, Deliberate Choice by the Father

- a) Abraham knew exactly what he was doing; not an act of passion or a religious fit
- b) Errands and tasks: cutting the wood, saddling the donkey, kindling the fire, packing the knife

vs. 3 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.

- c) Three-day journey... ample time to ponder what he was walking to do
- d) **FULFILLED**: God the Father made the plan from eternity past

[Peter preaching at Pentecost] *Acts 2:23 [Jesus of Nazareth] was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

[Believers praying about the crucifixion] *Acts 4:27-28 truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*

- e) God the Father made preparations for centuries... just exactly like this command to Abraham

3. Father and Son Alone

- a) The two servants were left behind... there would be no human being with him when they sacrificed

vs. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."

- b) Even dear mother Sarah was entirely left out of this story... this was an issue between father and son alone
- c) PERISH THE THOUGHT... of Mary, the mother of Jesus as a "co-redemptrix" with him as the Roman Catholic church teaches... as though Mary's sufferings somehow helped redeem the human race. NEVER!!! Father and Son were alone in the actual spiritual transaction

Mary's intense sufferings, united with those of her Son, as Pope John Paul II tells us, were, "**also a contribution to the Redemption of us all**" (Salvifici Doloris, n.25)

- d) **FULFILLED**: Salvation was worked at Calvary in a transaction between the Heavenly Father and His Eternal Son... no one was with them

Isaiah 59:16-17 He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

4. Isaac Carried His Own Wood

- a) Isaac was no small child... some commentators believe he was as much as twenty-five years old
- b) He was certainly old enough to carry all the wood for the burnt offering
- c) Abraham specifically laid this burden on his son

vs.:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son.

- d) **FULFILLED**: physically in the wood of the cross laid across Jesus' shoulders

John 19:16-18 So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him

Greek is intensive... as if it could say, "bearing His cross for Himself"

- e) **FULFILLED**: spiritually in Christ our sin-bearer

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Spurgeon: Analogy is that the wrath of all the sins of the people of God from every generation was focused and concentrated on Christ as the hot rays of the sun focused through a thick magnifying glass bearing down with infinite spiritual heat on the soul of the substitute... the Lord laid our sins on Christ and He carried them to Golgotha

“...the sin of the ages past and the sin of the ages to come, the sins of those of the elect Who were in heathendom, and of those who were in Jewry; the sin of the young and of the old, sin original and sin actual, all made to meet, all the black clouds concentrated and brought together into one great tempest that it might rush in one tremendous tornado upon the person of the great Redeemer and substitute. As when a thousand streamlets dash down the mountain side in the day of rain, and all meet in one deep swollen lake; that lake the Savior’s heart, those gushing torrents the sins of us all who are here described as making a full confession of our sins. Or to take a metaphor not from nature but from commerce; suppose the debts of a great number of persons to be all gathered up, the scattered bonds and bills that are to be honored or dishonored on such and such a day, and all these laid upon one person who undertakes the responsibility of meeting every one of them without a single assistant; such was the condition of the Savior; [God] made to meet on him the debts of all his people so that he became responsible for all the obligations of every one of those whom his Father had given him whatsoever their debts might be. ...all sins are made to meet, and then having met together and been tied up in one crushing load the whole burden is laid upon him.”

5. Fire of Judgment Ready to Consume Isaac

- a) Fire consistently a picture of the holiness and wrath of God... His intense hatred of sin

Hebrews 12:29 our God is a consuming fire.

- b) The sacrifice was to be burned up, a picture of wrath of God against sin of the people
- c) Abraham carried the fire up Mount Moriah with which to consume the body of his son
- d) **FULFILLED**: Christ was never burned physically... but he had a different fire consume him... first, a fiery zeal for the purity of the house of God, displayed when He made a whip and cleansed the temple

John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Word literally means... “zeal for your house has eaten me up like a fire consumes the fuel.” This one act of zeal more than any got him killed...

A second fire burned in Christ’s soul... the fire of the wrath of God; this was the very cup Jesus shrank from in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Revelation 14:10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur

This fire, the wrath of God against sin, burned in Jesus' soul when He bore our sin on the cross

6. Death Penalty Required

- a) From the very beginning, the wages of sin has been death... "All sin deserves the death penalty"

Genesis 2:17 of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- b) The command to sacrifice Isaac was not in any way unjust... for Isaac was a sinner, and deserved to die

Romans 6:23 the wages of sin is death

Ezekiel 18:4 every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son-- both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

- c) Later in Israel's history, when God killed the firstborn of Egypt, He made it plain that the firstborn of Israel also deserved to die and were only saved by the death of a substitute, the Passover Lamb
- d) All sin deserves the death penalty... Isaac was not to be sold into slavery, Isaac was not to be wounded or made to labor for a year; Isaac was to die
- e) **FULFILLED**: Jesus was born to die... He had to lay down His life as an atonement for our sins; It was to be Jesus' life for ours; nothing less would atone for our sin, nothing else would pay the death penalty we owe for breaking God's holy law

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body

- f) Our sinfulness: Adam sinned by violating the single command God had given; we sin by violating the Ten Commandments and the Two Great Commandments... we are selfish, we are lustful, greedy, angry; we disobey our parents, murmur against God-ordained authorities in our lives; we squander our resources and waste our time in selfish pursuits... for these sins and for countless others we deserve to die; and not just physically but spiritually and eternally in hell
- g) Jesus died in our place to bring us to God... and only His death would accomplish that

7. Shocking Moment of Revelation

- a) Isaac clearly did not know he was to be the sacrifice as he ascended the mountain

Genesis 22:7-8 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?"⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

- b) At some point his father told him or he realized that HE was the sacrifice
- c) That was the shocking moment of revelation... when he understood what was to happen on the mountain of the Lord
- d) **FULFILLED**: In His deity, Jesus always knew He would die for the sins of His people; however, when He entered the world through the womb of Mary, He submitted to full humanity and that means to a growing process of learning. This is an intense and infinitely deep mystery, how Jesus could be fully God and yet develop in His understanding... BUT HE DID

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- e) At some point, God the Father taught Jesus that He would die for the sins of humanity, and by the time He was thirty and ministering publicly, he knew very well that He was going to die... He had learned this from His Father

John 10:17-18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-- only to take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Matthew 20:28 the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

- f) However, as Jesus neared His own time to die on Mount Moriah, He also had a shocking revelation from His Father, just as Isaac had from his father Abraham
- g) Here we are on holy ground, but here we must go to understand the cross... here we come to Gethsemane, the night before the crucifixion

Mark 14:32-33 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.³³ And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy

The word translated in the KJV "Sore amazed" comes from a Greek word whose root means to be "struck" or "shocked" resulting in terror or astonishment. Sometimes the person is so shocked and stunned as to be rendered speechless with fright; other times the reaction is less severe

Common to all of these, however... a sense of being **STRUCK** and **SHOCKED** by something, perhaps even something new or unexpected... like the crowd's reaction to Jesus' miracles

Why did Mark use this word to describe Jesus' emotional state in Gethsemane?

If Jesus already knew He was going to die the next day, why was he "sore amazed"... as if struck dumb with terror?

ILLUS. The difference between hearing something on static-filled AM radio and watching it on full-color HDTV... the experience is greatly augmented

God the Father revealed to Jesus more fully what it would be like to drink the cup of God's wrath to the bottom, and the experience was so overwhelming it literally knocked Him to the ground

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jesus, like Isaac, had a shocking revelation concerning the sacrifice... Isaac was shocked to find out **HE** was the sacrifice; Jesus was amazed to find out how horrible it would be to drink the cup of God's wrath for sin

Martin Luther: "Never a man feared death so much as this man"... but Christ was not afraid of a normal, physical death... rather of the terrifying cup of God's wrath against sin

8. Isaac Willingly Yielded to Death

- a) Isaac yielded to his aged father Abraham, and he did so willingly
- b) How do we know this? Well, he was big and strong enough to carry the wood for the sacrifice up the mountain by himself; and he was young enough to outrun his father
- c) If Isaac had not been willing to die on that altar, I doubt that Abraham could have made him do so
- d) **FULFILLED**: Jesus Christ fully yielded to the Father's command, and did so for the joy set before Him... His obedience saves our souls!!

Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

- e) In this we find the sublime courage of Christ... His determination to go to the cross freely, of His own free will, and His willingness to drink MY wrath-filled cup for me, even though He knew ahead of time just what it would be
- f) Christ's willing obedience to His Father is the perfect fulfillment of Isaac's willing obedience to Abraham... and a direct contrast to Adam's willful disobedience that brought the death penalty into the world to begin with

Romans 5:19 *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

9. Isaac Bound

Genesis 22:9 *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.*

- a) Why was Isaac bound? Luther said it was not because Isaac would fight or run away, but rather because this was the usual manner of dealing with a sacrifice
- b) Perhaps it was also to help Isaac not give into weakness and fear during the sacrifice
- c) How must Abraham have felt as he was lashing his son's arms and legs together, as he was constraining his son to the will of God? What kind of grief filled his mind with every cord and every knot?
- d) As Abraham laid Isaac on the altar, what a picture of total submission to the will of God, what an incredible act of courage and faith
- e) **FULFILLED**: Jesus was BOUND spiritually, hemmed in by the will of God and the prophecies of Scripture... He had no other path to walk, no other outcome to His life

^{KJV} **Luke 12:50** *But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!*

Literally: How much am I hemmed in, closed in, surrounded, unable to get out" ... same word used concerning the future of Jerusalem;

Luke 19:43 *The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.*

also used of the huge crowd pressing in on Jesus

Luke 8:45 *"Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."*

Jesus was hemmed in by the will of God as revealed in Scripture, and there could be no escape. When Peter drew his sword to fight the soldiers who had come to arrest Jesus, He commanded Peter to put away His sword.

Matthew 26:53-54 *Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"*

Jesus was bound in by the Scriptures, and He felt the burden of it every day of His life, especially as the time drew near

John 12:27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

- f) **FULFILLED**: Jesus was BOUND physically as well...All four gospels mention that Jesus was bound by the soldiers and guards who were arresting and torturing Him

*Matthew 27:1-2 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² **And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.***

10. Abraham to Strike Isaac Himself

- a) As we've mentioned, it is HORRIBLY difficult to face death yourself, but even harder to watch your beloved son die and be powerless to save him

For this reason the father in Patrick Morley's story, on the fishing trip in Alaska, chose rather to die with his son than leave him to die alone

- b) Even harder to watch your son die and CHOOSE not to save him

Charles Spurgeon: This is the horrible feeling of an aged father suffering during one of the ancient Roman persecutions; his two sons were arrested for being Christians; he was begging the Roman guards to let him die in their place; the Roman allowed him to exchange his life for ONE of his sons!! He could NOT choose which one to save and which one to condemn to death... in the end, BOTH sons were executed

- Story told originally by Richard Wurmbrand, founder of Voice of the Martyrs and a victim of persecution himself by Romanian Communists

The Communist torturers came towards Pastor Florescu again, this time with red-hot iron pokers, "Who else believes as you do? Give us their names." Florescu would not speak. They had already cut him again and again with knives and beaten him very badly. When he refused to cooperate, he was returned to his cell.

Starving rats were then driven into his cell through a large pipe. He could not sleep, having to defend himself at all times. If he rested a moment, the rats would attack him. He was forced to stand for two weeks, day and night. The Communists kept asking him to betray his brethren, but he resisted steadfastly.

In the end, they brought his fourteen-year-old son and began to whip the boy in front of his father, saying that they would continue to beat him until the pastor told them what they wanted to know. The poor man was half crazy. He bore it as long as he could. But when he could stand it no more, he cried to his son, "Alexander, I must say what they want! I can't bear your beatings anymore!"

His body bruised, blood running from his nose and mouth, Alexander looked his father in the eye. "Father, don't do me the injustice of having a traitor as a parent. Withstand! If they kill me, I will die with the words, 'Jesus and my fatherland.'"

This enraged the Communists. They grabbed the young man and beat him to death, his blood splattering over the walls of the cell. He died praising God as his father watched. Not only did he hold onto his faith, but he enabled his father to do the same.

SO it's hard to be able to save your son and choose NOT to

- c) Harder still to give the order to put your own son to death

ILLUS. Don Richardson authored the book *Peace Child*, from his experiences as a missionary in Papua New Guinea.

When warring tribes of head-hunters made peace, the warring chieftains would each exchange one of their children. The children would grow up with the others' tribe and, if in the future, conflict threatened between the tribes again, those children would be sent to negotiate. Such a child was called a "Peace Child."

You can imagine how difficult it would be for a chieftain to give up his only son to have an enemy raise him. How much more difficult for a King to give the order to have his own son killed in order to achieve peace

- d) Harder still to be the one actually to execute your own child, torturing him yourself

This is what Abraham was willing to do as he pulled out the knife... Abraham had to be the one to do it himself

- e) **FULFILLED**: How immensely difficult this was for the heavenly Father we can never know

Hard to suffer torture and death yourself; hard to watch your own son die, powerless to stop it; harder still to watch your own son die and be ABLE to stop it but choose not to; harder still to give the order to put your own son to death; HARDEST OF ALL to be the one to do the grisly work yourself, with your own hand

This is precisely what Isaiah 53 says God the Father did to the Suffering Servant, who is Christ, His only begotten Son

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer

It was God's own hand that crushed Christ and caused Him to suffer wrath

- f) NOTE: God's emotions at doing this to His son, His only Son... We are created in the image of God and the affections we have for our children is great... our emotions run deeply when the lives of our children is at stake... BUT OUR EMOTIONS ARE LIKE A CANDLE COMPARED TO THE RAGING SUN, THE PASSIONS OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER FOR HIS PERFECT SON

What must God have felt emotionally as His perfect Son, bearing sins that were not His, suffering intensely under the wrath of God cried out **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!"**

There were eerie signs in nature as to how God was feeling at crushing His own Son

Luke 23:44-45 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining.

Matthew 27:50-54 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵² The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

11. The Shedding of Blood

- a) Abraham drew out the knife and was set to slay his son with it
- b) He was shedding the blood of the sacrifice just as God had taught him to many times before
- c) Why? Blood sacrifice was the only acceptable gift to God for our sins

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Hebrews 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- d) **FULFILLED:** So also Christ was killed in a way that guaranteed the shedding of His blood... not by stoning or by suffocating or by drowning, but by the shedding of His blood on the cross

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Colossians 1:19-20 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

12. The Angel of the Lord

- a) Who was the angel of the Lord? How is He different from other angels
- b) Generally, angels are spiritual beings, created to worship and serve God

Psalm 103:20-21 Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

- c) "Angel" means "messenger"... someone sent to bring a message or act as a representative for a king
- d) Angels assigned now to minister to those who are being saved

Hebrews 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

- e) Angels regularly appear in the Old Testament in various ways
- f) BUT "The angel of the Lord" acts differently than any other angel
- g) Already saw him appear in Genesis 16, the account with Hagar
- h) I believe "the angel of the Lord" is none other than the Pre-incarnate Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity
- i) Note how He says things a normal angel would never say

Genesis 16:7-13 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. ⁹ Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." ¹¹ The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. ¹² He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers." ¹³ She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

It was the angel of the Lord who appeared in the flames of the burning bush to Moses:

Exodus 3:1-6 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight-- why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

It was the angel of the Lord that led Israel out of bondage to Egypt, and the Lord said a very strange thing about Him:

Exodus 23:20-21 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. ²¹ Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since **my Name is in him**.

[Literally, "My Name is in His inner parts, in His inmost being"]

["He will not forgive your rebellion?... "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But the an

Judges 2:1-4 *The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, ² and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars. 'Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? ³ Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you."* ⁴ *When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud*

Here, however, is the clearest of all!!!!

Genesis 22:11-12 *But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ¹² "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."*

"I know...?" As though the angel were the one testing and assessing Abraham

"You have not withheld FROM ME your son...?" The Lord commanded Abraham, and it was to the Lord that Abraham was offering Isaac... who then is the angel of the Lord to say this???

Genesis 22:15-18 *The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."*

Though the angel of the Lord says the words, "declares the Lord", yet it is the angel of the Lord announcing that the Lord has sworn by Himself!!!

- j) How fitting for Christ to stop Abraham from killing his son, since it would be Christ's blood which would eventually redeem Isaac from hell!!!

13. Isaac Released: Redemption and Resurrection

- a) After the angel of the Lord called to Abraham and stopped him, Abraham set his son Isaac free

- b) The time of Isaac's suffering, of being bound was over... perhaps Abraham used the very knife he would have used to kill his son now to set him free... what joy must have filled their hearts as the bonds were cut and fell to the ground
- c) Isaac's release is a picture of redemption and release at three levels
- d) **FULFILLED**: First, Isaac's release represents Christ Himself, who broke the bounds of death by His mighty resurrection from the grave

Acts 2:24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Romans 6:9 We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

- e) **FULFILLED**: Secondly, Isaac's release represents all sinners who trust in Christ, who were enslaved to sin and to death, but who have been released from bondage into glorious freedom... present release from slavery to sin, and from the penalty of eternal death in hell... FREE and RELEASED!!! So also a future release from death itself into a glorious resurrection, body, soul and spirit saved to the uttermost

FREED From The Bitter Bondage of Sin:

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

John 8:34-36 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 6:16-18 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

- f) **FULFILLED**: Thirdly, Isaac's release represents physical creation, which was enslaved to decay, futility and corruption by human sin, but will someday come into the glorious freedom of the children of God... a powerful link between humanity and the

earth was made at creation... Adam's creation from the dust of the earth demonstrated that connection, so also did the fact that the earth itself was cursed because of human sin; that curse put the earth in bondage to decay, and in that bondage it has groaned ever since... Isaac's freedom represents the future liberation of the physical creation into perfection, never again subjected to sin or death

Romans 8:19-25 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Isaac release is a picture of Christ's triumph at the cross and at the grave...

At the cross, He freed us from slavery to sin's penalty, sin's law, sin's power, and sin's practice

In emptying the grave, He freed us from fear of death, and from death itself in the end... the promise of freedom forever from sin's corruption

In all of this, creation groans and waits for the glorious freedom which will come in the end, in the New Heavens and the New Earth

14. The Ram in the Thicket: Temporary Substitution

Genesis 22:13 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.

- a) The Ram was also a type or picture of Christ, as was every animal that was sacrificed in the Old Testament
- b) So was fulfilled immediately Abraham's statement of faith to his son Isaac

Genesis 22:8 Abraham answered, "God himself will **provide** the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

Genesis 22:13-14 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. ¹⁴ 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."

- c) Strong sense of SUBSTITUTION in this!!! And this is the core of our salvation

[NASB] vs. 13 and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

- d) Very clearly acted out was the powerful image of substitution: the Ram died and Isaac did not... the Ram took Isaac's place
- e) So also was re-established the Old Testament practice of animal sacrifice... of animals offered to God as an atonement for sin
- f) This practice was first revealed in the Garden of Eden, when God used the skin of an animal to cover Adam and Eve's sinful nakedness
- g) Animal sacrifice was also displayed in the very next chapter when Abel offered a lamb from the flock
- h) BUT never before was the Substitutionary aspect of this exchange so clearly displayed as on Mount Moriah... there the Ram caught by its horns literally took the place of Isaac on the altar
- i) AND never again would the obvious limitations of animal sacrifice be so clearly displayed... the RAM DID NOT EQUAL ISAAC in value... the ram was a clear STEP DOWN in worth below Isaac... clearly the ram was only a temporary provision for Isaac and for all Old Testament believers
- j) Clearly Abraham and Isaac knew what the writer to Hebrews would write two thousand years later:

Hebrews 10:4 it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

- k) King David knew this powerfully after his despicable sin with Bathsheba

Psalm 51:16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

- l) God provided animal sacrifice, but only as a TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE for Isaac and for all Old Testament saints... their sins waited for the future fulfillment of Christ, the only true and eternal substitute for our sins
- m) For another two thousand years, God would command and provide animal sacrifices as temporary substitutes for all the sinful people of God... but not once would the blood of animals TRULY atone for sin... for animals are lower than humanity and their death does not equal our death
- n) Every animal offered by the command and provision of God in the Old Testament was a type, a picture of the true substitute, Christ who would come later

- o) **FULFILLED**: Christ was the final and perfect substitute God provided for Isaac and for all us sinners... and SUBSTITUTION is our only hope for salvation on judgment day

*Genesis 22:7-8 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?"⁸ Abraham answered, "**God** himself will provide the **lamb** for the burnt offering, my son."*

*John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the **Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

*1 Peter 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a **lamb** without blemish or defect.*

- p) Christ our SUBSTITUTE

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

NOTE: the word "for" in that verse literally means "as a ransom instead of (or in the place of) many"

HE TOOK OUR PLACE, just as the ram took Isaac's place

- q) How does Substitutionary atonement work?

Basic concepts:

- 1) All sin deserves the death penalty... ultimately eternal condemnation and wrath at the hands of God
- 2) The death penalty can be paid by a substitute
- 3) The substitute cannot be an animal

Finally: Christ paid our death penalty, acting as our substitute at the cross

Central: Exchange of guilt and righteousness

Leviticus 16:21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat

Christ redeemed us by taking our sins upon Himself as our substitute:

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are

healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

*Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the **curse** of the law by becoming a **curse** for us- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"*

J. Gresham Machen: Here we come to the very heart of Paul's teaching. The curse which Christ bore upon the cross was not a curse that wrongly rested upon Him; it was not a curse pronounced upon Him by some wicked human law. No, it was the curse of God's law; it was a curse, therefore, — we tremble as we say it, but the Scripture compels us to say it — it was a curse that rightly rested upon Him. But if that be so, there can be no doubt but that the substitutionary atonement is taught in Scripture. The only way in which a curse could rightly rest upon a sinless One is that He was the substitute, in bearing that curse, for those upon whom it did rightly rest. That is the heart of Paul's teaching and the heart of the whole Bible.

Christ also redeemed us by giving us His perfect righteousness as a gift

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This exchange is the heart of the gospel... it was acted out when the ram took Isaac's place... and it must be fulfilled in you by faith or you will be eternally condemned

15. The Place and Its Prophetic Name

II. Review and Applications

Review : Fourteen of fifteen types discussed... the gospel of Christ acted out twenty centuries before Christ was born

1. The "Father-Son" Relationship: "Your son, your only son"
2. Predetermined, Deliberate Choice by the Father
3. Father and Son Alone
4. Isaac Carried His Own Wood
5. Fire of Judgment Ready to Consume Isaac
6. Death Penalty Required
7. Shocking Moment of Revelation
8. Isaac Willingly Yielded to Death
9. Isaac Bound

10. Abraham to Strike Isaac Himself
11. The Shedding of Blood
12. The Angel of the Lord
13. Isaac Released: Redemption and Resurrection
14. The Ram in the Thicket: Temporary Substitution
15. The Place and Its Prophetic Name

1. Worship God for the wonder of His wisdom, of the depth of His Gospel plan, acted out so perfectly on Mount Moriah

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

2. Trust in Christ for salvation: His substitution is the only hope for the human race

Cast all your sins on Christ, let Him bear the weight of your guilt and your condemnation

3. Review these types and their fulfillments to understand how completely and totally God had predicted and has now completed Christ's work at the cross... also feed your soul on the love of God in Christ

4. Are you discouraged?

Renew the joy of your salvation by meditating on the perfection of these types... your salvation is a GREAT SALVATION, and every possible need has been met

5. Is your faith weak or shaken?

Faith comes from hearing the message of Christ... saturate your mind in these types and in the promises of the gospel... saturate your mind in the WORD of God

6. Are you struggling with besetting sin?

If you are a Christian, realize that Christ has freed you forever from the bondage of sin... you are as free from sin's power and authority as Jesus is free from death... sin has no mastery over you at all!! Perhaps you are a man struggling with lust, and you are constantly beset by temptations. Realize that Christ lives within you and the cords of your bondage to sin are cut forever by Christ's work

7. Are you afraid to obey God in some difficult path of obedience?

Abraham and Isaac picture obedience by faith... Christ performs it perfectly. Abraham and Isaac set a pattern for the imperfect believer, and give you an example of courageous faith and obedience to follow... but never forget that you are not saved by your obedience but by Christ's obedience!!!!

8. Are you skeptical about the truth of Scripture?

How can anyone doubt, thinking that the gospel of Christ was a man-made myth? Can it really be so? Do not these fifteen types and the many other prophecies fulfilled in Christ end forever any serious charge that the Gospel is manmade!!!

9. Are you fearful of sickness and death?

Remember that the whole point of this story is salvation from everything that sin have ever done to the people of God and the creation of God. Christ's work on the cross is perfected, and He will save His people from sin and from death