

**Additional notes for teachers:**

Many of the notes comprise deeper matters which have arisen in the course of preparation of the Students Notes. Other material has been appended for the purpose of providing background, explanations or interesting detail.

**LESSON 10****1. HOW OLD WAS ISAAC?**

Isaac's age at the time he was to be offered as a sacrifice is not mentioned. Abraham calls him a "lad" which is rather vague as, for example, Joseph at 17 is called a "child" (Gen. 37:2, 30). Isaac was strong enough to carry the wood for the offering which suggests some measure of co-operation from Isaac – he was submissive to his father's will. As Abraham had faith in resurrection (Heb. 11:19) he presumably would have conveyed something of this to Isaac. Josephus says he was 25 but it is not unreasonable to suggest on the basis of the ONE of whom Isaac was a type, that he could have been 30 – 33.

**2. SPIRITUAL STRENGTH FROM TESTING**

We might ponder the meaning of this incident. God knew beforehand how Abraham would react, but Abraham himself could not presume to say how he would react in such a circumstance. Afterward however he did know and could therefore, face the future in confidence, knowing he had the spiritual strength developed through walking with God, to face any trial which could come upon him. Abraham was a different man afterwards, having successfully passed through such a great test.

Likewise the heirs of salvation, following in the footsteps of Abraham, know they will never be tested above what came upon him. It is possible for man to live righteously before God (though perfection is found only in the Son). It is remarkable to trace the parallels in language between Abraham and Jesus in this regard.

**3. MT MORIAH AND JEHOVAH-JIREM**

There is a sustained play on words in Gen. 22:1-14, particularly verses 8 and 14. Moriah means "vision" and is so rendered in the Douai version. The relation between "vision" and "pro-vision" exists also in Hebrew. The words "Moriah", "Jirah", the verbs "saw" and "provide" (notice R.V. mg.) as well as "Jeru" (in Jerusalem) all come from the same root source and are all related words (although Jerusalem is sometimes given a different origin and so can mean either Vision of Peace or Possession of Peace). So God will "provide" means God will "see" to it – hence Jehovah-jireh; it shall be seen/it shall be provided.

**4. POSSESS THE GATE**

To "possess the gate" is also to sit in the place of judgement (as Lot). To entry and exit are on the basis of judgement. The seed will sit as judge over his enemies and "the last enemy is death". Jesus has the Key of the House of David (Isa. 9:22; Rev 3:7) so he determines who is admitted or excluded from that House (Ps. 122). He has also the keys of hell and of death (Rev. 1:18) to be used on the basis of judgement (Matt. 25). So Abraham is promised that in his seed and only in his there will be Resurrection and life.

### **TEACHING METHODS**

- 1) Add feeling to this lesson of Isaac's impending sacrifice by involving Sarah's feelings as well as Abraham's.
- 2) Expound the principles of testing which God adopts for all His children.
- 3) Show how these events pointed forward to the Lord Jesus Christ
- 4) Make a strong point of the instruction.