



*They Saw Jesus . . .
Centuries in Advance!*

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Road to Emmaus - Luke 24



- ★ After Jesus left them, the two said:
“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”
- ★ What did Jesus say to those two disciples?
- ★ We want to make some suggestions based on hints in the NT and important passages in the OT.



Abraham Saw My Day



- ★ When Jesus' opponents charged that he was demon-possessed, he responded:

“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” (John 8:56)

- ★ What did Abraham see, and when did he see it?
- ★ We suggest he saw it during his lifetime and it was recorded in the Bible.



The Covenant Confirmed

- ★ In Genesis 15, we have an unusual event.
- ★ Abraham asks God how he may know that God's promise of his inheriting the land will come true.
- ★ God has him bring three sacrificial animals and cut them in half.
- ★ That evening, a smoking firepot & blazing torch pass between the pieces and God repeats the promise.



The Covenant Confirmed

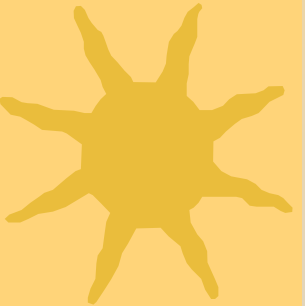
- ★ This peculiar event is in fact a covenant confirming ceremony, common in the ancient Near East.
- ★ We see a sample in Jeremiah 34:18:

“The men who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and walked between its pieces.”



The Covenant Confirmed

- ★ But here in Genesis 15, it is God that passes between the pieces, not Abraham.
- ★ God is saying, “I will die rather than let this covenant fail.”
- ★ He did!
- ★ Jesus died on the cross so that God could be just and still keep his promises to us sinful humans.





The Sacrifice of Isaac Stopped



★ In Genesis 22, Abraham is commanded by God to sacrifice his son:

- His only son
- The son whom he loves



★ He is just about to do so when an angel stops him.



★ A substitute is sacrificed instead.





The Sacrifice of Isaac Stopped



- ★ This incident ends with an unusual statement in Genesis 22:14:

“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.’”



- ★ Jesus was crucified as a substitute on that very mountain!





David Saw His Crucifixion

- ★ Why did Jesus cry out from the cross:
“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”
- ★ He was quoting Psalm 22; it tells of one who is:
 - Abandoned by God
 - Surrounded by enemies
 - Hands and feet pierced
 - Clothes gambled away
 - Thirsty
 - Bones out of joint
 - Laid in the dust of death



Why Have You Abandoned Me?



- ★ The psalm goes on to note that God does answer him and rescue him.
- ★ The events will be remembered all over the world and down thru the generations.
- ★ This is just what happened in the crucifixion & resurrection of Jesus!



Isaiah Saw His Glory



- ★ In John 12:41, the evangelist tells us:
“Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.”
- ★ Where does Isaiah do this?
- ★ We have time here for two passages only.



A Light to the Gentiles

- ★ In Isaiah 49, the prophet gives us the speech of God's servant:
 - Called before his birth
 - God's secret weapon, his special arrow
 - Though called Israel, he will rescue Israel
 - He will be a light to the Gentiles, to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.
 - Though despised by the nation, even rulers will bow to him.



A Light to the Gentiles

★ This perfectly fits Jesus!

- He is the only person claiming to be Israel's Messiah who has founded a world religion of Gentiles!
- He has been despised by his own nation!
- Even rulers have bowed down to him.



The Suffering Servant

- ★ In Isaiah 53, we have the most famous prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- ★ God's servant:
 - Rejected by humans
 - Despised by Israel
 - Dies for their sins
 - Is raised to life again
 - Is exalted by God



Putting It All Together

★ Abraham saw his day

- God's promise to die rather than let the covenant fail
- God's substitute, the lamb provided

★ David saw him

- Forsaken by God, mocked by men
- Yet later delivered, good news for the world

★ Isaiah saw his glory:

- A Light to the Gentiles
- The Suffering Servant



Our Response

- ★ Should not our hearts, too, burn with joy when we realize:
 - Jesus really is the fulfillment of OT prophecy
 - He really is who he claimed to be
 - He really has died for our sins
 - if we are trusting in him
 - He really did rise from the dead!
- ★ May God be praised!