

Basic Stages in the Book of Ages

The Life of Isaac

Resumes stress and accentuate our accomplishments.

Accomplishments are always past tense

**You can't continue to live on accomplishments...but
you can build on them!**

Isaac – Son of Abraham

Isaac's story is told in Genesis chapters 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, and 35. Throughout the rest of the Bible, God is often referred to as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Isaac was a miracle child, born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age as the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham to make his descendants a great nation.

Three **heavenly beings** visited Abraham and told him in a year he would have a son. IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE because Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 100! Sarah, who was eavesdropping, laughed at the prophecy, but God heard her. She denied laughing (point blank lied).

God told Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." (Genesis 18:13-14, NIV)

Of course, the prophecy came true. Abraham obeyed God, naming the baby Isaac, which means "he **laughs**."

When Isaac was a youth, God ordered Abraham to take this beloved son to a mountain and sacrifice him. Abraham sadly obeyed, but at the last moment, an angel stopped his hand, with the knife raised in it, telling him not to harm the boy. It was a **test** of Abraham's faith, and he passed. For his part, Isaac **willingly** became the sacrifice because of his faith in his father and in God.

Later, Isaac married Rebekah, but they found she was barren, just as Sarah had been. As a good husband, Isaac prayed for his wife, and God opened Rebekah's womb. She gave birth to twins: Esau and Jacob.

Isaac favored Esau, a burly hunter and outdoorsman, while Rebekah favored Jacob, the more sensitive, thoughtful of the two. That was an **unwise move** for a father and mother to take. Isaac and Rebekah should have worked to love both boys equally.

Listen...parents, do not...] say, "Do not" show partiality to one of your children over another. This is a critical and crucial imperative for a parent. Even if one child holds to your values and is obedient in every way...while another strays and is disobedient, obstinate, and unloving...please don't love the wayward child less for his less than worthy attributes. Remember...God loved you when you were not worthy of love; when you were not loving, nor obedient. You, as parents, should not ever approve of disobedient or sinful acts; but, you should still love him/her with the love God showed for you while you were still a sinner. Pray for your wayward child; pray for your wayward child and give him/her to God. Choices by your wayward child can be changed by the Holy Spirit only. This is not saying... "don't discipline or give in to their sin, but when your actions don't change them, the Holy Spirit can and will.

Isaac's Accomplishments:

- Isaac obeyed God and followed His commands. He was a loyal husband to Rebekah.
- He became a patriarch of the Jewish nation, fathering Jacob and Esau. Jacob's 12 sons would go on to lead the 12 tribes of Israel.

Isaac's Strengths:

- Isaac was **faithful** to God. He never forgot how God saved him from death and provided a ram to be sacrificed in his place.
- He **watched** and **learned** from his father Abraham, one of the most faithful men of the Bible.
- In an era when polygamy was accepted, Isaac took only one wife, Rebekah. He loved her deeply all his life.

Isaac's Weaknesses:

- **To avoid death by the Philistines, Isaac lied and said Rebekah was his sister instead of his wife. His father had said the same thing about Sarah to the Egyptians.**
 - **A caressing kiss was the key....**Genesis 26:8, “When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.”
- **As a father, Isaac favored Esau over Jacob. This unfairness caused a serious split in their family.**
 - Jacob was a deceiver = (1) Stole Esau’s birthright
(2) Stole Esau’s blessing**
 - **A deceiving kiss was the key...**Genesis 27:27, “...So he (Jacob) went to him (Isaac) and kissed him....”

There are three “kisses of treachery and deception” in the Bible.

1. **Jacob kisses Isaac in order to deceive him (Genesis 27:27)**
2. **Joab kisses Amasa in order to murder him (II Samuel 20:9)**
3. **Judas kisses Christ in order to betray him (Matthew 26:49)**

Question:

When you publicly worship and love God, are you trying to deceive others into thinking you are something you are not?

Don’t make a mockery of worship. Deceptive worship is kissing God with a selfish and unclean heart.

Life Lessons:

- **God answers prayer. He heard Isaac's prayer for Rebekah and allowed her to conceive. God hears our prayers too and gives us what is **best** for us.**
- **Trusting God is wiser than lying. We are often **tempted** to lie to protect ourselves, but it almost always results in bad consequences. God is worthy of our trust.**

- **Parents should not favor one child over another. The division and hurt this causes can result in irreparable harm. Every child has unique **gifts** that should be encouraged.**
- **Isaac's near-sacrifice can be compared to God's sacrifice of his only son, Jesus Christ, for the sins of the world. Abraham believed that even if he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise his son from the dead: He (Abraham) said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." (Genesis 22:5, NIV)**

Key Verses:

Genesis 17:19

Then God said, "Yes, but 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." (NIV)

Genesis 22:9-12

*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. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "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."(NIV)*

Galatians 4:28

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. (NIV)

We might think there is little for us to learn from such a character as Isaac, and yet this isn't the case. When Isaac discovered, for instance, that he had been deceived by his son Jacob, he accepted and submitted to what he recognized as God's will, in spite of it being completely against the accepted tradition at the time. Just as Isaac discovered, we, too, must always remember that God's ways are not our ways or His thoughts the same as ours (Isaiah 55:8).

Though we might think there are no great achievements to speak of concerning Isaac's life, it was Isaac that God chose to continue the covenant line, the same line that would produce our Messiah, Jesus. And for many generations the Jewish nation described their God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Indeed, there are several Scriptures

where God describes Himself in the same manner (e.g., Exodus 3:6). Isaac is listed with the other patriarchs and in Jesus' own words will be found seated in His kingdom (Luke 13:28). And there is no greater honor we can hope to achieve.

NOTE:

- **It seemed impossible =**
- **Is anything too hard for the LORD?**

The Good Points:

- **Isaac willingly became the sacrifice because he trusted his father and his God**
- **Isaac prayed for his wife.**
- **Isaac accepted and submitted to what he recognized as God's will.**

The Bad Points:

- **Isaac Lied**
- **Unwise Parents (Parents favoring one child over another)**
- **Isaac failed to build an altar**

It is not what we have done in the past (accomplishments) that will help us achieve our goal....it is what we are doing and are striving for that will make us achievers...and winners.



The altar is where you can fulfill your promises to God...where you can plan to complete your journey toward home...and where you can make dreams happen!

**Spend time on your knees.
The rewards are astoundingly remarkable!**