

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

The scriptures say of Abraham, *“when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”* *“For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”* He was given grace to see beyond the veil which covers the eyes of those without the gift of faith. His “vision”, though imperfect, nonetheless compelled him to persevere, clinging to the promise which was given to him. Indeed he is the embodiment of that scripture which says, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* It was this “vision” which empowered him to obey the commandment of the LORD to take his son Isaac, who was the son of promise, and offer him as a burnt offering unto the LORD. How else could it be possible that he should offer up the very one whom the LORD had promised to be his heir; not to mention the natural affection which he had for the son of his old age? Yet the LORD enabled him to “see” beyond the present into the future and behold the fulfilled promise of GOD even though he died before that promise was fully manifested. *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”* *“And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.”* He had plenty of time to contemplate the seeming folly of his actions. Carnal reason, surely, plagued him with plenty of doubt and fear, even wrestlings and strife of body and soul. *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* It seems that he was encouraged by that which, to the carnal mind, would seem no encouragement at all. For it was in contemplation of worshipping the LORD, at the appointed place of SACRIFICE, that he first testified that he fully expected to return with his beloved son. *“And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.”*

The appointed place of worship for the sons of GOD is the cross of CHRIST, even as Paul declared, *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”* This is the only place where the sons of GOD can find any hope at all. It is here that all of their hopes rest, because by grace through faith they are given eyes to behold the ONE who gave HIMSELF as an offering for sin. The men of this world can behold it, since the gospel is not hid, but they cannot see the glory that surrounds that place nor receive any comfort there from. It is here that JESUS CHRIST demonstrated HIS dominion over sin though it was hid from the wise and prudent. It is here that the GOD of HEAVEN and earth made a show openly of HIS triumph, even though that triumph was not clearly manifested until the third day when HE arose from the tomb.

Abraham’s “vision” enabled him to testify to his son of the source of his confidence. When Isaac inquired as to where the sacrifice was, Abraham declared, *“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”* In this we see a picture of the willingness of the SON, in obedience to HIS FATHER, to go to the cross as well as the faith of Abraham in the ONE *“Who,--being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* Abraham believed that the LORD HIMSELF would provide this offering for sin. And thus he manifests saving faith.

The “FAITH” which justifies sinners is not that which is within them, rather the “FAITH” which justifies sinners is the ONE who is the OBJECT of FAITH. CHRIST is their FAITH. The woman with the issue of blood who had spent all of her money on physicians of no value was not healed “because” she believed, rather, she was healed because of the ONE in whom she believed. This is exactly Paul’s testimony and that which Abraham confessed. *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”* The LORD enabled Abraham to see *“a ram caught in a thicket by his horns.”* This RAM was caught in the thicket before Abraham was given eyes to see HIM there. So it is that CHRIST was ordained to be the *“LAMB of GOD which taketh away the sin of the world”* before any man had ever sinned.

This RAM which Abraham saw was *“caught in a thicket by his horns”* which demonstrated his power. The LORD JESUS said; *“I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”*

“Thy free grace alone,”#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**