

2. THE WORD OF FAITH, ver. 8. GOD WILL PROVIDE. A LAMB. An answer of evasion; or of prophecy concerning the "Lamb of God." From verse 5 we may infer that Abraham believed that God would in some miraculous way restore Isaac if sacrificed. THEY WENT. Abraham full of faith; Isaac full of filial trust.

Every new phase of the history makes the patriarch's faith shine more resplendent.

Love for his father makes Isaac's burden light enough to be borne up the most difficult ascents; love for God lifts Abraham to the very summit of the Mount of Sacrifice.

Faith finds a ready answer in the darkest hour. Faith's words are oft like bugle notes, inciting legions to conflict and to victory. Lord, increase our faith!

But never hope to stir the hearts of men,  
And mould the souls of many into one,  
By words which come not native from the heart.

—Goethe.

3. THE DEED OF FAITH, vers. 9, 10. THE PLACE. Moriah, (vers. 3, 7.) Some authorities claim that this "place" is the very spot on which long afterward the LAMB OF GOD was slain. (See *Hand-Book of Bible Geography*.) ALTAR. What blessed memories cluster around God's altars! Gen. viii. 20; Judg. xiii. 20; Psa. xliii. 4; Isa. lvi. 7. BOUND ISAAC. ON THE ALTAR. The son now learns the nature of his father's trial. How wondrously heroic Isaac's submission! ABRAHAM. TOOK THE KNIFE. The last act in the fearful trial is reached. Tried, proved, accepted of God, Abraham is henceforth the "father of the faithful."

Isaac was now probably about thirty-three years of age. His submissiveness is thus the more remarkable. Christ was of the same age when he became our sacrifice. Type and antetype. Both willingly led "as a lamb to the slaughter." Isa. liii. 7. The only begotten of Abraham; the Only Begotten of God. Isaac submits in silence; Christ is dumb as a sheep before her shearers. John x. 18; Acts viii. 32.

The magnificent proportions of Abraham's faith cannot be measured. In profoundest admiration for his godly obedience we give glory to God, who alone can make such heroic faith possible to man. The trial of his faith is to us "much more precious than of gold." 1 Pet. i. 7.

Abraham obeyed God. A story is told of a great captain, who, after a battle, was talking over the events of the day with his officers. He asked them who had done the best that day. Some spoke of one man who had fought very bravely, and some of another. "No," he said, "you are all mistaken. The best man in the field to-day was a soldier who

was just lifting up his arm to strike an enemy, but, when he heard the trumpet sound a retreat, checked himself, and dropped his arm without striking the blow. That perfect and ready obedience to the will of his general is the noblest thing that has been done to-day."—Ozenden.

4. THE REWARD OF FAITH, vers. 11-13. ANGEL OF THE LORD. Jesus Christ. The term "angel of the Lord" being used in one verse is frequently explained in another. In this instance it is declared, by ver. 16, to mean Jehovah. And we know that Christ is the only Manifestor or Revealer of God. Compare John i, 18; Gen. xv. 1. 7. CALLED. By an audible voice, startling Abraham and staying his hand. NOTWITHHELD THY SON. God's omniscience sees the whole act of faith and obedience as complete as though Isaac lay bloody and dead upon the altar. To Abraham the deliverance is as if his only son had been raised from the dead. RAM. God provided the victim—an animal IN THE STEAD of a human sacrifice. On Calvary, Jesus, the Lamb of God, is provided by the Almighty Father to save a world of sinners.

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 1 Sam. xv. 22.

If the deep of his affliction calleth loud, yet the deeper faith in his God calleth louder still. Now see him! See the holy man as he gathers up the loose stones which lie upon Mount Moriah! See him take them, and with the assistance of his son, place them one upon another, till the altar has been built. Do you see him next lay the wood upon the altar in order? No signs of flurry or trepidation. See him bind his son with cords! O, what cords were those binding his poor, poor heart! ... Now he unsheathes the knife, and the deed is about to be done; but God is content. ... Notice the obedience of this friend of God—it was no playing at giving up his son; it was really doing it. It was not talking about what he could do, and would do, perhaps; but his faith was practical and heroic. I call upon all believers to note this.—Spurgeon.

5. THE MEMORIAL OF FAITH, ver. 14. JEHOVAH-JIREH. Hebrew. *The Lord will see, or provide.* Moriah signifies *manifestation of Jehovah or chosen of God.* Probably Abraham had reference to this signification. IN THE MOUNT ... IT SHALL BE SEEN. Isaac was the type of the LAMB OF GOD that should be "seen" or "provided" when the fulness of time should come. And it was doubtless on *this very mount* that Christ was crucified.

Abraham's memorial name, Jehovah-jireh, has thrilled millions of hearts. On many a mount of sacrifice, in many a gloom of darkness, the same voice "speaking out of