

TAKEN IN ANOTHER

Missionary Baptists appreciate the doctrine of SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH. Everyone should. All of our sins were laid on Him. We should have died; but, we were "**Taken in Another.**"

It was back in the year of 1959 that God took me in His Son. Over the years, my understanding has just about caught up with the Expiation joy that Jesus provided on that day. It is glorious! But, on that day, there was extra glory in my soul. The Angel's song was sweeter on the day that I was **taken in another.**

This idea of **TAKEN IN ANOTHER** is seen in many "types" within the Old Covenant. There is a clear picture for us to see. God accepts man in the only way possible. He takes sinners in the righteousness of His Son, Jesus.

The hold of sin is so strong that it must be broken or, man has to die. **Taken in Another** is the only way man can have his sin paid, receive remission and have forgiveness. Redemption takes place at the same time; by the same sacrifice. Salvation comes when man is **Taken in Another - the man, Christ Jesus.**

Man's recovery process is seen early in Genesis by God killing an animal, covering the nakedness of the first couple (Gen 3:20). And then, on a much larger scale, **TAKEN IN ANOTHER** is gloriously portrayed in the "**Passover Lamb.**" The Lamb's blood covered each house within Israel - saving the **First Born Son** while, setting the nation free from Egyptian bondage.

Everything about Salvation is there in the saving of the First Born Son. The blood bought back all who were first born of natural parents. Now, each person is born again; not, only being saved, but coming into the New Community of God's people. This was accomplished by the death of the perfect sacrifice. Of course, this account in Egypt is but a picture; symbolic of what would be done by Jesus on the cross. Indeed, God so loved the world.

Other than the cross itself, there is nothing that paints a love story like the obedience of Abraham in offering his son, Isaac. When faith is exercised, God steps in by providing His 'ANOTHER' to fill in. God provided a ram, and Isaac was "**taken in another.**"

That's exactly what happens at Calvary. The moment the Father sees faith exercised in His Son, Jesus, He steps in, providing grace for salvation.

All **types** should be looked upon as a **story-telling-picture.** Types show how God will work later, when He sends Jesus to save man. He fills in those TYPES for us. Because we have both covenants, we are privileged to have the Type and the work of Jesus recorded. We may view them together.

Our eyes open wide when the substance (Jesus) meets the shadow (type). The heart is thrilled to discover such clear meaning of the spiritual. What was dormant, in terms of spiritual availability, has been enacted by Jesus. In His resurrection, the present world became ignited and operating, in the present age. After the cross, the power of the Holy Spirit begins, by working upon our spirits.

Types are outlines. They are shadows that reveal a theme. Often, they run throughout the Bible - from Genesis to Revelation; such as, the BLOOD MOTIF. Types act as spiritual glasses, allowing us to see; not only the historical account, but the meaning of the event when fulfilled in the work of Jesus Christ. There isn't a type in the Bible that can save man. And, there is no other fulfillment of types than the life and work of Jesus.

But, when we get to the New Covenant, the substance "fills in" the types. The result is that a life-giving spiritual renewal is available for all mankind.

Other than animals, God also uses men as types to picture what Jesus will accomplish. In the type of Isaac, we see Jesus, but we cannot miss the sacrifice, either. Jesus is the Son, represented by Isaac, and He is also the offering that will save the son, Isaac; as well as, every son of man.

But, types can be hard to read, at times. Preachers want to make every **jot** and **tittle** represent some great and deep spiritual truth. If it is hard for us to understand the meaning - with the entire Bible before us, we can imagine how it was for the men that God used to be types. We conclude that those were great men of faith.

At the time of the offering, Isaac is a sweet, obedient lad. Walking with his father to Mt. Moriah, he is as innocent as they come. When we compare Isaac-the type, to Jesus-the substance, we see a great difference in the knowledge of the two sons.

Isaac was just happy to be with his father. He had no idea what was going to happen. "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, ...and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering..." Gen 22:2. God said it, so Abraham started out, walking for three days with Isaac and two young men.

We hear Abraham's faithful voice speaking to the young men. "Stay here with the donkey, I and the lad will go...we will worship and return to you," Gen 22:5.

Isaac is all caught up in what his father is doing. He looks around and sees everything in place. But, Isaac is puzzled. He sees the wood, the fire and the knife, but no lamb. Father Abraham, he asks, "...where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Gen 22:7.

Abraham assures Isaac, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (22:8). In Abraham's mind, he believed that, "even though I

offer my son, God will raise him from the dead." Confirmation of his faith comes from Hebrews 11:19, "Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

From the beginning, God's plan for Isaac was to receive him IN ANOTHER. A ram, caught in the thick brush, would be the figure and substitute for Isaac.

When we come to the true offering of the Son, Jesus, many spiritual truths gush forth from the account of Genesis 22. One truth is Abraham's faithfulness. It amplifies the faithfulness of God, the Father. The Bible records the Father's voice coming from heaven, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," Matthew 3:17.

Isaac was unaware of what was happening. But, Jesus knew exactly what was in store for Him. After all, He drew up the details, Himself - way back there, in eternity. But, there is a point that needs to be looked at closer when we study the knowledge that Jesus had, before hand. We need to have a better appreciation of the Father/Son relationship between Jesus and His Father.

For this, we will try to stretch out the meaning of this relationship. And, when we do, there is something, absolutely marvelous. There is a "Oneness" between the Father and Son that fills both with a heavenly pleasure. There is an eternal joy in the Godhead over man's redemption and recovery of the creation. It combines the Three Persons into One; one of Eternal Spiritual harmony.

The Holy Spirit is excited over the Father's will. He knows, once the Son's sacrifice is made, it will time for His work to fully begin. It's like the bottom of the ninth, with the bases loaded. The Holy Spirit can't wait to come to bat for all the elect. All bases will be empty, all runners will score and head for home! It's over! Or, to say it Biblically, it is "finished."

In Isaac, we see loving obedience. He was innocently unaware, but trusted his father all the way. We see these same qualities in Jesus but the difference is, Jesus knew everything that was to take place. He was going to die; yet, His desire was always that of His Father's. The kind of love Jesus had for His Father is not a normal, human kind of love, to say the least.

To show the difference, let's examine the parent/child kind of love within a family. It's not new that **parents** love their **children** a billion times more than children love their parents.

I know that's true in my own life. My wife and I have four children and, without question, I have always loved my children more than I loved my parents. Yes, we love our parents, but it isn't the joyous, free flowing kind of love that we share with our kids. We just don't get that exuberant, instantaneous feeling when our

parents are with us, as we do when our kids are around. Then, there's those special grandkids.

Therefore, taking into consideration parental love, we see what a tremendous act of faith that Abraham showed. After placing the wood on Isaac's shoulders, he headed out with knife in hand. God knew Abraham loved his son and, it is clear, the Lord was bringing Abraham through all this for many reasons. One reason is the example of faith that he had. And, early in Scripture, God looked for someone to reveal how man will be saved. Isaac pictures how God will take man in **another man**, Jesus.

Our heavenly Father did just that. He offered Jesus. And, the Son was willing to be offered. As noted, Jesus was fully aware of His next move. In the garden, we are blessed to see and hear the ultimate love story. It isn't a love only for lost mankind, however. In those submissive words of Jesus, we hear a spiritual manifestation of the Son's great love for His Father. **"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt,"** Matthew 36:39.

For sinners, God's love can only be manifested by Jesus. Without the love that Jesus had for His Father, nothing spiritual would be accomplished. Man would remain in death, without hope. No access into God's grace would be available. How we thank the Father for His Son. In Jesus, we were taken and given peace, **"because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given to us"** (See Romans 5:1-5).