

# A Different Perspective on Easter

## Introduction

The way we look at Easter is very important. Let's look at it from a different, timeless perspective.

### 1. Abraham's Joyful Perspective

- **Jesus's Words:** "Abraham rejoiced to see My day." (John 8:56)
- **Abraham's Understanding:**
  - Abraham's interactions with Jesus prefigured the gospel. (Galatians 3:8)
  - Key events: Encounter with Melchizedek (Genesis 14) and the covenant (Genesis 15) and his conversation with God (Genesis 18).

### 2. Jesus's Final Week – A Reflection of Abraham's Journey

- **Palm Sunday:** Jesus enters Jerusalem amid celebration. (Matthew 21:8-9)
- **Parallel with Abraham:**
  - Abraham's journey to Moriah with Isaac mirrors Jesus's walk to Golgotha. (Genesis 22) and Isaac carrying wood symbolizes Jesus carrying His cross.
- **Key Events in Jesus' Final Week:** see more detail below

### 3. The Foreshadowing of the Gospel in Abraham's Story

- **Isaac's Sacrifice:**
  - Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac prefigures God's sacrifice of Jesus. (Genesis 22:12-13)
  - The ram provided by God points to Jesus as the Lamb of God. (John 1:29)
- **Faith and Obedience:**
  - Abraham's unwavering trust in God's promise of resurrection. (Hebrews 11:19)

### 4. Other Foreshadowings of the Crucifixion in the Old Testament

Genesis 3:15: The seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head. Exodus 12: The Passover lamb as a foreshadowing of Jesus. Daniel 9: Messiah's coming and being "cut off" for others.

## Conclusion, Application

If we see the crucifixion by faith, as Abraham did, we can have his JOY and His obedient FAITH. It is essential and very helpful. It must go beyond head knowledge and affect our whole lives.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac challenge our understanding of faith and obedience?
2. How can looking at the crucifixion from God's "timeless perspective" change how we view Easter and affect our lives?
3. What steps can we take to let our faith move from head knowledge to heartfelt action this Easter season?

## Verses used in this talk in order

Jhn 8:56 NKJV — "56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."  
... 58 NKJV — "58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.""

Jhn 12:12 NKJV - "12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,"

Luk 19:41-44 NKJV - Jesus draws near Jerusalem and weeps.

Heb 11:17-19 NKJV - Abraham expected God to raise his son from the dead.

Gal 3:8 NKJV - "8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed.""

Gen 14:18 NKJV - "18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High."

Heb 7:3 NKJV - "3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually."

Gen 14:19 NKJV - "19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;"

Rom 4:13 NKJV - "13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."

Genesis 18 - Abraham meets God and negotiates for Sodom

Genesis 15 - Abraham's covenant with God

Gen 22:1-14 NKJV — Abraham's test - willing to sacrifice Isaac

2Sa 24:18 NKJV - "18 And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.""

Jhn 3:16 NKJV - "16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Exodus 12 - the passover and the lamb

Rom 4:19-20 NKJV - "19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,"

Gen 3:15 NIV - "15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.""

Jhn 1:29 NKJV — John... "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Dan 9:24-27 - Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy predicts the date of Jesus' life and death

Heb 11:1 NKJV - "1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Gal 3:8-14 NKJV - Explaining how we participate in Abraham's blessings

Mat 14:28-29 NKJV - Peter walks on water

### Key Events in Jesus' Final Week:

- Monday, Tuesday: Jesus weeps over Jerusalem, clears the temple and debates with the authorities. (Luke 19:41-44)
- Thursday: Last Supper and betrayal. (John 13-17)
- Friday: Crucifixion and darkness. (Luke 23:44-46)
- Sunday - Resurrection