

SUBSTITUTE, SUBSTITUTED

God provided a **substitute** for Isaac. A ram was offered in his place.

- **Genesis 22:13:** "And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son."

God didn't provide a **substitute** for Isaac until after Abraham picked up the knife to kill Isaac.

- **Genesis 22:12-13:** "And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son."

The reason Abraham called the place where he went to offer Isaac as a burnt offering "Jehovahjireh" (which means "the Lord provides") was because God provided a ram as a **substitute** for Isaac.

- **Genesis 22:14:** "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."

The tribe of Levi served as a **substitute** for the firstborn of all of the Israelites. (God dedicated them to His service instead of taking all the firstborn of the rest of the tribes of Israel.)

- **Numbers 3:12:** "And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine;"
- **Numbers 8:14-17:** "Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine. And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them for an offering. For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me. For all the firstborn of the children of Israel are mine, both man and beast: on the day that I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for myself."

God accepted the tribe of Levi as the **substitute** for the rest of the tribes of Israel. He took them as the substitute for the rest of the firstborn of Israel, and their cattle as the substitute for the rest of the firstborn of Israel's cattle.

- **Numbers 3:41:** "And thou shalt take the Levites for me (I am the LORD) instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel; and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstlings among the cattle of the children of Israel."

The Levites were intended to be the **substitute** for the

firstborn of the rest of the tribes of Israel. However, there were more firstborn among the rest of Israel than there were Levites. That created a problem. There weren't enough Levites to cover the firstborn of the rest of Israel. (This was handled by having the people who didn't have a substitute pay 5 shekels.)

- **Numbers 3:45-48:** "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I am the Lord. And for those that are to be redeemed of the two hundred and threescore and thirteen of the firstborn of the children of Israel, which are more than the Levites; Thou shalt even take five shekels apiece by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take them: (the shekel is twenty gerahs:) And thou shalt give the money, wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed, unto Aaron and to his sons."

When Ezekiel said that using man's dung to cook his food would make him unclean and objected to using it, God allowed him to **substitute** something else instead.

- **Ezekiel 4:12-15:** "And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight. And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them. Then said I, Ah Lord God! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth. Then he said unto me, Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung, and thou

shalt prepare thy bread therewith."

The Lord Jesus Christ died for us. In His death, He took upon Himself the punishment that we deserved for our sins. Christ is our sacrifice and our **substitute**.

- **1 Corinthians 11:24:** "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."
- **Galatians 1:4:** "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"

Those who lay the Bible aside have laid aside the tool that the Holy Spirit works through, and have **substituted** it for something the Holy Spirit *doesn't* work through.

- **Ephesians 6:17:** "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

When God spared Isaac and offered an animal as a **substitute** sacrifice, God was rescuing him from death and thereby symbolically resurrecting him. Isaac was condemned to death, but was spared by the death of a substitute.

- **Hebrews 11:18-19:** "Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."