

On the way to Christmas. (Pg.#1)
(What is God saying about our prejudices?)

To start, in this pre-Christmas study, we must come to the understanding that God chose to bring forth the Messiah, Jesus, from the line of a former prostitute from Canaan, and also from the lineage of Ruth, a foreign woman from Moab...

-- Last quiz I asked, "What do you think God might be trying to communicate to us about our ideas of prejudice and pride?"

-- So on the way to Christmas, let's look deeper into an answer to that question.

English Standard Version of the Bible used here. (Mark the correct answers)

Starting back in Genesis 22:6-18... And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. (7) And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (8) Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. (9) When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. (10) Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. (11) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (12) He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (13) And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. (14) So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (15) And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven (16) and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, (18) and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

-- Q1. What do we see of God's plan for mankind's salvation in God's message to Abraham in (Vs.12)?
He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

☐ – God rejected Isaac. ☐ – God was foreshadowing His own commitment to save us through the sacrifice of His only son, Jesus.

-- Q2. What is the promise God makes to Abraham in (Vs.18)?
"and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

God will bless... ☐ – only Abraham. ☐ – only the Jewish people. ☐ – all the nations.

See how the Apostle Paul repeats these words in Galatians 3:8-9... And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." (9) So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

-- Q3. Paul clarifies the promise God makes to Abraham in Vs.9 as he states...

God will bless... ☐ – only Abraham. ☐ – everyone and Abraham. ☐ – people of faith along with Abraham.

So, God's plan of salvation was intended for all mankind (that includes womankind) who would believe...

Jumping right into the Christmas account from Luke 2:8-14... And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. (10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

-- Q4. In Vs.10 the angel tells the shepherds... "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for _____. (Fill in the blanks.)

☐ – only you shepherds. ☐ – all the people. ☐ – only the Jews.

(Quiz continues on Pg.#2)