

People of the Bible

Isaac

Isaac, the long promised and awaited son of Abraham and Sarah was born when his father was one hundred years old his mother was ninety-one years old. The announcement of his birth brought both joy and laughter to his aged parents (thus the name Isaac, which means “laughter”).

As a young man, Isaac accompanied his father to Mount Moriah, where Abraham, in obedience to God’s command, prepared to sacrifice him as a burnt offering. But God intervened, sparing Isaac’s life by providing a ram as a substitute offering (Genesis 22:1-14), thus pointing to the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world.

Isaac was given in marriage to Rebekah (Genesis 24:67), and they has twin sons, Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-26). In his old age, Isaac, blind and feeble, wanted to give his blessing and chief inheritance to his favorite – eldest – son Esau. But through deception Rebekah helped Jacob receive his father’s blessing instead, resulting in years of family enmity.

Isaac died at the age of 180 and was buried in the family burial cave of Machpelah by his sons, who by then had become reconciled (Genesis 25:28-29).