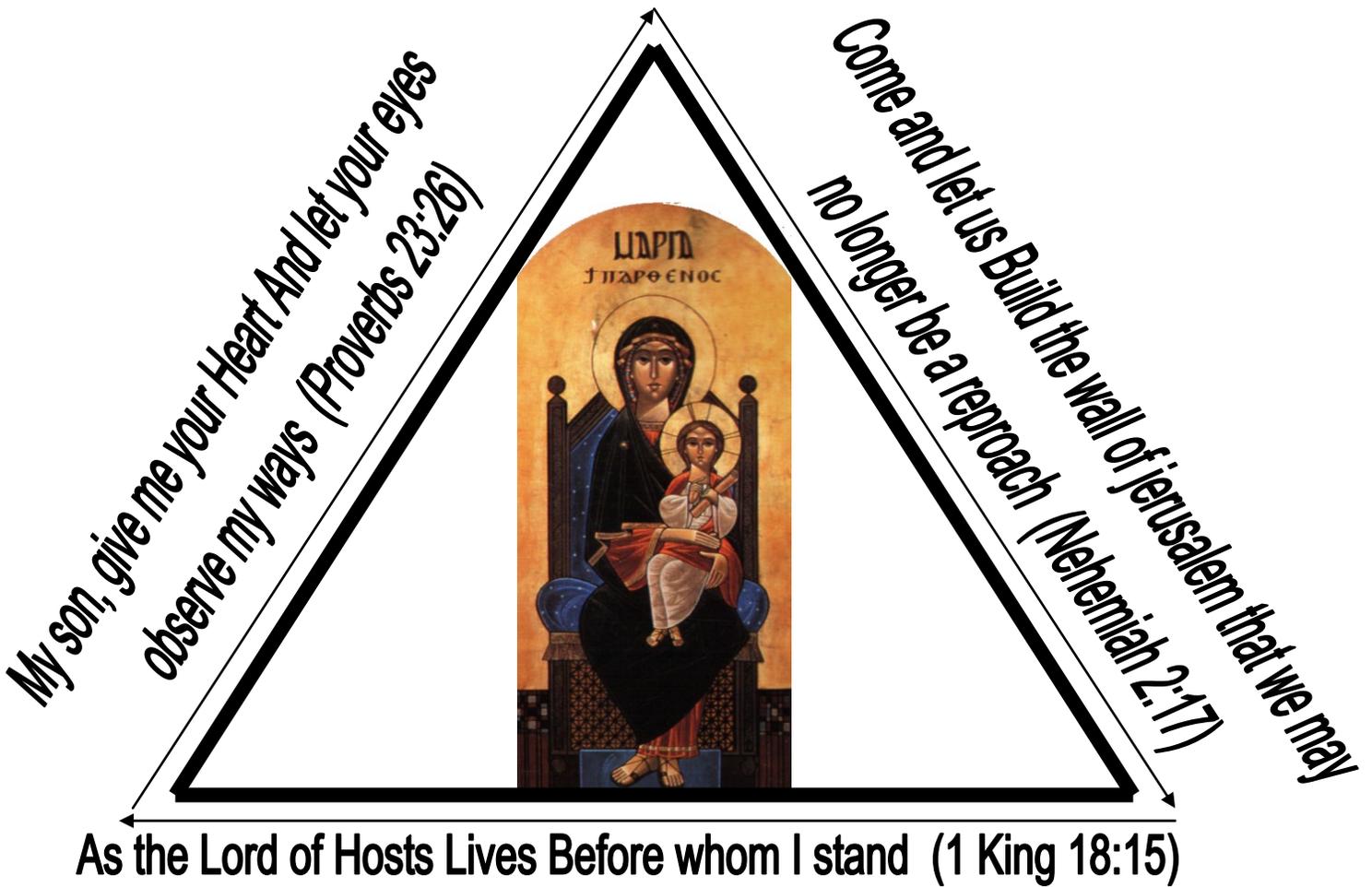


Growing In the Coptic Orthodox Church



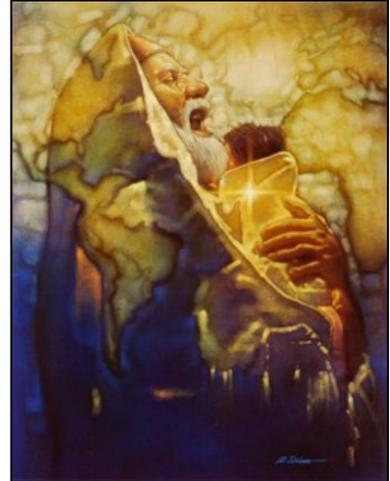
Knowing Your Father

FATHER ISAAC

The Commemoration of the Patriarch Father Isaac

1. Our Father Isaac:

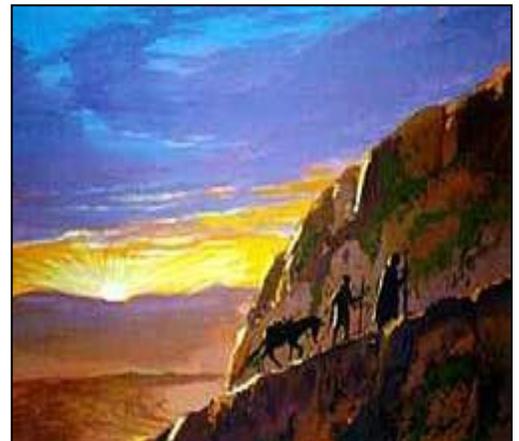
He was born by a divine promise, and he was perfect in piety and obedience to God and to his father. **He was Abraham only beloved Son.** He was willing to be sacrificed by his father as an offering to God, although he was the son of the promise, and his father begot him when he was one **hundred years old**. Isaac was not a child when



he was being sacrificed for the Bible said, “So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son, and went to the place which was a far off”. Some historians say that Isaac’s age then was about **thirty five to thirty-seven years old**. He obeyed his father, and laid down his neck for slaying, but the angel of the Lord ordered his father not to lay his hand on the lad. As it was considered that Abraham had fulfilled the sacrifice of his own son by intention, it was also considered that Isaac **was sacrificed by intention**.

Parallels With the sacrifice of Jesus.

1. From the time that Abraham received God’s command until Isaac was released from the alter (3 days) he was as good as dead to Abraham. Jesus Chris was in the tomb for 3 days and nights.



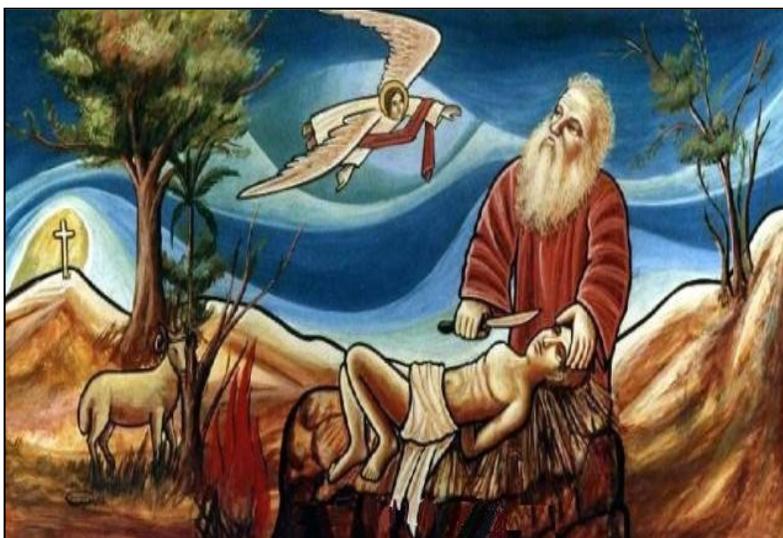
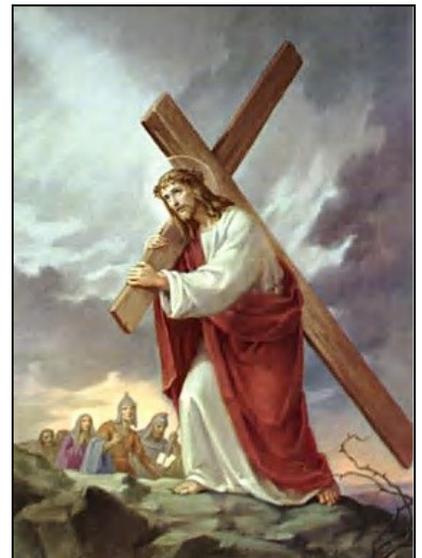
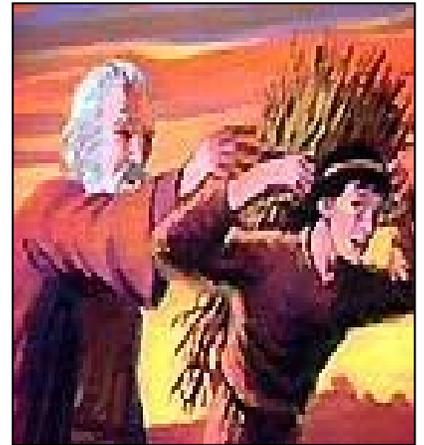
2. When God intervened Abraham received his son back from death. Resurrection of Jesus Christ by the Father. (Hebrew 11:17-19)

3. Isaac carried the wood on which he was to be sacrificed on his shoulders up the mountains. Jesus Christ carried the wooden cross up to the same hill.

4. Abraham placed the wood on his son; God the Father in effect placed the cross on His Son's shoulders.

5. Isaac was a willing obedient victim. Jesus Christ willingly lay down his life in obedience to the father. God did not force His Son to die. (John 10:17-18)

6. God provided a substitute, a ram, in place of Isaac. Jesus Christ died in the place of all who believe and accept Him as their Saviour. (Roman 8:32)



Rebekah travels to Canaan and marries

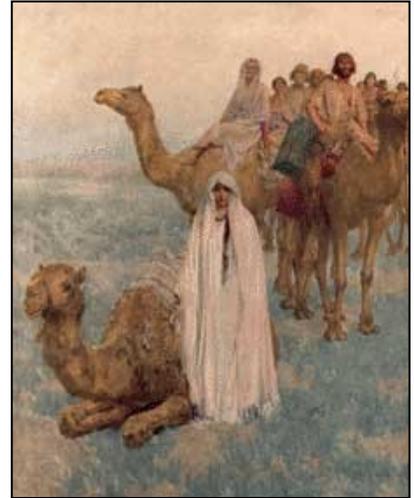
Isaac:

Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

For she had said unto the servant, what man is this that walked in the field to meet us? And the servant had said it is my master: therefore she took a vial, and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; **and he loved her:** and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. He suffered many tribulations and sorrows. God gave him two twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Isaac loved Esau for his bravery. When Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, he called Esau, his older son, and said to him, "My son... behold now, I am old. I do not know what day of my death. Now therefore,

please... go out to the field and hunt game for me. And make me savoury food... that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die". Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. She spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "... Go now to the flock and bring me from there



two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savoury food from them for your father, such as he loves... that he may bless you before his death". Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing". But his mother said to him,

"Let your curse be on me, my son". (Genesis 27:1-29)

She did that by a divine inspiration. Jacob did as his mother ordered him and his father ate and blessed him. Isaac departed in peace when he was one hundred eighty years old.

Isaac blessed his son Jacob saying:

❖ "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of the Field which the Lord has blessed.

❖ Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine?

❖ Let people serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let you mother's sons bow down to you.

❖ **Curse is everyone who curses you, and bless be those who bless you!" (Genesis 27:28-29)**

May his prayers be with us? Amen.

