

God's Covenant with Abraham Abraham's Faith Confirmed

Genesis 22:1-19

Hebrews 11:17-19

James 2:14-26



20 November 2022

Pursuing our Goals

What we learnt in previous weeks

- God makes everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
- The Everlasting God is Absolute! (Isaiah 40:7)

Introduction/Background (Genesis 12-22)

- Chapter 22 reveals Abraham's greatest trial.
- Years before Isaac's birth were years of waiting and numerous trials.
- About 18 years have elapsed between Chapters 21 and 22.
- This is a test of Abraham's real heart. Will Abraham obey? (Matt 22:37-38).
- It is also a test to show us how far this man has advanced in the life of faith.
- God built Abraham slowly, over many decades into a man of faith.
- This was not so much a test to produce faith, as to reveal faith.
- **MAIN POINT:** True faith loves God more than His gifts. The TREASURING OF GOD (ABOVE ALL ELSE) (Psalm 73:25-26).

God tests the faith of Abraham (Genesis 22:1-2)

- **Here I am:** It meant that he was ready to be taught, ready to obey, ready to surrender to God. An example of how we should respond to God.
- **Take now your son, your only son Isaac:** As far as God's covenant was concerned, Abraham had only one son. Jesus Christ was also led by God the father to be sacrificed (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10; Rom 8:32).
- **Your only son Isaac, whom you love:** From Genesis 1:1, this is the first mention of love in the Bible. It comes in the context of love between father and son, with the sacrificial offering of the son and involved obedience (Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 John 2:3).

- **Offer him there as a burnt offering:** Dedicated wholly unto the LORD and then the body was completely burned (Leviticus 1:1-17).
- This test was difficult in another aspect, God had already promised in Isaac your seed shall be called (Genesis 21:12). It seemed as if God was commanding Abraham to kill the very promise God made to him.
- Abraham had to learn the difference between trusting the promise and trusting the Promiser. Trust the Promiser no matter what, and the promise will be taken care of (Deut 7:9; Psalm 71:22; 1 Cor 1:9; 1 Thess 5:24).
- **To the land of Moriah...** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you: There was a specific place God commanded Abraham to go. God carefully communicated each detail of His instructions.

Abraham's immediate response of faith (Genesis 22:3)

- **So Abraham rose early:** There is no sign of hesitation on Abraham's part. Abraham rose early in the morning to do this. Abraham's obedience showed that he fully solidly trusted God.
- **Saddled his donkey:** He saddled his donkey and split the wood personally.
- **Went to the place of which God had told him:** In amazing, trusting obedience, Abraham went right to the spot which God had told him.

Abraham's offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:4-8)

- Then on the third day: Abraham came to the place on the third day - Mount Moriah, modern-day Jerusalem (2 Chron 3:1). *Jesus Christ sacrifice took place on the same mountain* (John 19:20; Heb 13:12).
- **Will go yonder and worship:** This is the first use of the word worship in reference to God in the Bible. Abraham and Isaac went to the mountain to worship the LORD.
- **And we will come back to you:** Abraham was full of faith when he spoke to the young men who were with him. He believed that both of them would return; and he told them so.
- **Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son:** Isaac received the wood for his own sacrifice from his father, and he carried it to the mountain of sacrifice. *Jesus also carried His cross to his crucifixion* (Genesis 22:6; John 19:17).
- **He took the fire in his hand, and a knife:** Abraham took the instruments of death up to the mountain. He didn't leave it behind or pretend to forget it. This was a further demonstration of his

amazing obedience, and of his trust that God would raise Isaac from the dead. *Similarly, it is God who sacrificed His only Son on the cross* (Isaiah 53:10; Romans 8:32).

- **The two of them went together:** This literally means that they went in agreement. Isaac did this knowingly, voluntarily and willingly. The phrase is repeated twice for emphasis (Amos 3:3). *Similarly, Jesus laid down His life voluntarily for all that the father had given Him* (John 10:11;17-18; Eph 5:25).
- **My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering:** Abraham responded to Isaac's question that God would provide. He totally trusted in the ability of God to raise Isaac from the dead. *Similarly, Jesus also cried out to the Father and submitted to His will* (Gen. 22:7; Matt 27:46).

Isaac willingly lies down on the altar (Genesis 22:9)

- Then they came to the place: Even on Mount Moriah there was a specific place God had told Abraham to go - God is detailed in His instructions.
- Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac: Note the complete confidence and submission of Isaac to his father. *Similarly, Jesus perfectly SUBMITTED to the Father* (Genesis 22:9; Luke 22:42, Mark 14:36; John 10:18; Romans 5:8).
- Upon the wood: As an obedient son, Isaac laid down on the wood, ready to be sacrificed.

God's merciful response (Genesis 22:10-14)

- **Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son:** Abraham was completely willing to kill Isaac, because his faith was in God's ability to raise Isaac from the dead, not in God's desire to stop the sacrifice. *Similarly, Jesus was brought back from the dead* (Acts 2:24; 4:10; Ephesians 1:20; 2 Cor 4:14; Heb 11:19).
- **Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him:** God strongly and clearly demonstrated that He did not want human sacrifice.
- **You have not withheld your son, your only son, from me:** Abraham displayed his heart towards God in that he was willing to give up his only son. *Similarly, God displays His heart towards us in the same way, by giving His only begotten Son - God's love.* (John 3:16; Romans 8:32).
- **Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son:** God still required a sacrifice. God didn't call off the sacrifice. Instead, He required that there be a substitute

provided by God Himself. *Similarly, Jesus Christ is our substitute* (John 1:29; Matt 3:15).

- **Abraham called the name of the place:** The LORD Will Provide, in reference to what God did: PROVIDENCE. In naming the place, Abraham says nothing about himself at all, but ascribes all the praise unto God alone (Philippians 4:19).
- **As it is said to this day:** Moses meant even in his own day, men looked and said, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided" - *A picture of how God would provide for Himself the ultimate sacrifice at His set time* (John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:19-20; Gal 4:4-5).

God rewards obedience (Genesis 22:15-19)

- **The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham:** Reaffirms Yahweh's covenantal blessings and Messianic promise to the world through Abraham's descendants (Genesis 12:2-3; 15:4-6; 17:4-6).
- **You have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son:** For the third time, God refers to Isaac as Abraham's only son (previously in Genesis 22:2 and 22:12).
- **Blessing I will bless you:** Trusting in God's power to raise his only son from the dead, Abraham received this great blessing (Gen 21:12).
- **I will multiply your descendants:** God repeated and emphasized that promise after Abraham's remarkable obedience.
- **As the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore:** Brings about the concept of countlessness (Gen 12:2-3; 15:4-6; 17:4-6).
- **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice:** The Messiah - the only son of God the Father - would fulfill this promise of blessing to all the nations of the earth. The Messiah came from Abraham's lineage (Gen 12:3; Gal 3:8,16; Acts 3:25).

The acceptable right responses

- Do we respond to God immediately saying "*Here I am*"? (Gen 22:1-2; Genesis 31:11; Genesis 46:2; Exodus 3:4; 1 Samuel 3:4; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 9:10; John 14:21,23)
- Do we obey, believe and trust God, even when we do not understand and see? (Proverbs 3:5-6; Exodus 20; Gen 18:14; Galatians 4:4)
- Do you submit to the SOVEREIGNTY of God? (Col 1:16-17)
- Do we treasure God above everything else? (Deut 6:4-5; Matt 6:33; Luke 18:8; 1 Peter 4:10; James 1:17)
- Do we pray to God to help our unbelief? (Mark 9:24; 1 Peter 1:3-7)