

Genesis 22:1–14 *And it came to pass after these things<sup>1</sup>, that God did tempt [God tested] Abraham, and said unto him, “Abraham:” and he said, “Behold, here I am.”<sup>2</sup>And he said, “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah<sup>2</sup>; and offer him there for a burnt offering<sup>3</sup> upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”*

*<sup>3</sup>And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave [prepared] the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off [saw Mt. Moriah in the distance]. <sup>5</sup>And Abraham said unto his young men, “Abide ye [You stay] here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.”*

*<sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand<sup>4</sup>, and a knife; and they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, “My father:” and he said, “Here am I, my son.” And he said, “Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering<sup>5</sup>?”*

*<sup>8</sup>And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:” so they went both of them together.*

*<sup>9</sup>And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. <sup>10</sup>And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son<sup>6</sup>. <sup>11</sup>And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham:” and he said, “Here am I.” <sup>12</sup>And he said, “Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me<sup>7</sup>.” <sup>13</sup>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 [instead] of his son. <sup>14</sup>And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh<sup>8</sup>: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*

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<sup>1</sup> Abraham had just made a peace covenant with a neighboring country.

<sup>2</sup> Moriah means “chosen by Jehovah”, and later became the place chosen by God (Deuteronomy 12:5) for King Solomon to build the Jewish Temple (2Chronicles 3:1).

<sup>3</sup> The Burnt Offering was the foundational offering that Jews made to God to atone for their sin, see Leviticus Chapter 1. Note some facts from that chapter related to what Abraham and Isaac did here in Genesis 22: 1) it is to be a male, without blemish, verse 3; 2) it is to make atonement (covering for sin), verse 4; 3) it is to be killed, laid on an altar, and completely consumed with fire, verses 5 - 9. This is what was going through Abraham and Isaac’s minds as they climbed Mt. Moriah those three days.

<sup>4</sup> On long journeys (this one was at least 7 days) a fire for cooking was kept going by periodically adding kindling wood to a ceramic pot.

<sup>5</sup> Isaac seemed unaware that he was to be the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> Note the similarity between Father Abraham’s willingness to offer his son as a sacrifice for sin, and God the Father offering His perfect Son as a sacrifice for our sin.

<sup>7</sup> God the Father did not spare Himself the grief from which he spared Abraham.

<sup>8</sup> Jehovah-Jireh means "Jehovah will see to it" or ‘God will provide’ from verse 8.

I. Introduction

- A. Current pandemic classification of essential workers verses non-essential
- B. God says that fathers essential to life of families.
- C. Children affected by lack of father in family.

II. Tests are Essential

A. God ordained Abraham's trial

1. God tested Abraham

- a. God asked him to give Isaac his son back to God

Hebrews 11:17 *By faith Abraham, when he was tried [tested], offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises [of possessing a land and future generations through Isaac] **offered up his only begotten son,***

- b. All of life's tests are allowed by God the Father to reveal our character

1 Peter 4:12 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you [don't be surprised when fiery trial happens], as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

- i. To a watching world
- ii. To ourselves

2. Old English word "temptation" has 2 meanings

- a. Trial or testing in life
- b. Sinful desires entice people to stray from God's path for their lives

3. God allows trials in Christian's life

1 Peter 1:7 *That the trial [testing] of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried [refined] with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

- a. Reveals to yourself & others desires of your heart
- b. Shows you problem areas in your life

B. Abraham's trial required sacrifice

1. Unthinkable cost

- a. Previously Abraham & Sarah had no children

Genesis 15:5-6 *And he [God] brought him forth abroad [brought Abraham outside], and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell [count] the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed [future generations] be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted [credited] it to him for righteousness.*

- b. Isaac was child of promise conceived in Sarah's old age

Genesis 18:11, 13-14 *Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women [and Sarah went through menopause]. ... And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore [Why] did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old [Will I surely bear a child in my old age]? Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.*

Hebrews 11:11 *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed [become pregnant], and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him [she knew God was] faithful who had promised.*

- c. God's promise to Abraham was through Isaac even though he had older son named Ishmael by a slave woman named Hagar

Genesis 21:12 *And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight [not trouble you] because of the lad [Ishmael], and because of thy bondwoman [Hagar]; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice [follow everything Sarah has recommended you do]; **for in Isaac shall thy seed** [future generations] **be called.***

- d. Isaac is called Abraham's "...only begotten son."

- 2. Unplanned command

- a. God tells Abraham to take his son Isaac up to Mount Moriah
- b. God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as burnt offering

### III. Obedience is Essential

- A. Abraham's immediate obedience (verse 3)

- 1. Confident faith

- a. Abraham prepares & leaves the next morning
- b. He takes his son Isaac and two young men, donkeys, & provisions for the burnt offering
- c. After three days journey Abraham tells the two young men to wait while the father and son go up this mountain.
- d. He tells them that he & Isaac will come again to them after they worship God.

- 2. Complete faith

- i. Complete faith is living faith – not dead faith
- ii. God is always in control

### 3. Consenting faith

- a. Isaac carried the wood up the mountain for the burnt offering
- b. Isaac asked the obvious question, “Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”
- c. Abraham answers him, “God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”
- d. Isaac consented to being tied up with rope & placed on the alter on top of the wood

### B. Abraham’s believing obedience (verse 8)

1. Just as Isaac carried the wood, Jesus also carried the cross on His back to Calvary. The parallels to Jesus in this story are amazing.

*John 19:17 And he [Jesus] bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*

2. God asks us to trust Him. As Isaac allowed himself to be bound by his father, so Jesus offered Himself up freely to God

*John 10:17–18 Therefore doth my Father love me [Jesus], because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.*

3. You must have faith in God to trust Him. Both Abraham and Jesus knew that God could raise the dead.

*Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up [from the dead], whereof we [the people of Jerusalem] all are witnesses.*

*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto [and don't trust] thine own understanding.*

*Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]:*

4. All Christians called children of Abraham

*Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same [these people] are the children of Abraham.*

## IV. Grace is essential

### A. Abraham prepares (verse 9)

1. Both Abraham & Isaac believed that God would provide the lamb
2. Abraham even goes so far as a knife in his upraised hand

*Hebrews 11:19 Accounting [Reasoning] that God was able to raise him [Isaac] up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure<sup>9</sup>.*

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<sup>9</sup> Abraham did not doubt that God could raise Isaac from the dead because he had already seen God cause Sarah become pregnant at 90 years old, well beyond the years of childbearing. The ‘figure’ here is that Sarah’s reproductive cycle had stopped long before, but God gave new life to this infertile woman.

A. God provides (verse 13)

1. Isaac is spared. God stops Abraham's hand and tells him not to slay his son Isaac

Hebrews 11:17-18 *By faith Abraham, when he was tried [tested], offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises [of 1) possessing a land and 2) future generations through Isaac] **offered up his only begotten son**, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

2. Looking around, Abraham found a ram stuck in some bushes by its horns
3. Abraham sacrificed the ram in place of his son Isaac

James 2:21-23 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought [combined] with his works, and by works was faith made perfect [complete]? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

4. God did provide Himself a lamb for the sacrifice, the payment of sins

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he [God the Father] hath made him [God the Son] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Hebrews 10:10 *By the which will [Because of Jesus' sacrifice] we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

5. Jesus came to earth to lay down His life

John 10:17-18 *Therefore doth my Father love me [Jesus], because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.*

6. Any person can accept God's free gift

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves []: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

V. Conclusion: Dad's are essential

- A. Unfortunately sin of hate part of human nature
- B. God applied grace to Abraham's life by saving Isaac's life.
- C. God will provide a way of escape for Christians

1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man [happens to everyone]: but God is faithful, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able [beyond your ability to pass the test]; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [to resist] it.*