

## Genesis Ch. 22

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- This takes place approximately 1,900 years before Christ.
- One of the most dramatic chapters in the entire Bible!
- God speaks and or appears to Abraham 7 times; this is the last recorded time.

V: 1 *“And it came to pass after these things,…”*

- One of the last things we see about Abraham in the last chapter is that he called upon the name of the Lord – and one of the next things we see is the Lord calling upon Abraham.
- We have just fast forwarded from the weaning of Isaac, and the casting out of Hagar and Ishmael about 30 years give or take.
- Sarah is 91-92 years old when she has Isaac, 2-3 years later when Isaac is weaned, she is 93-94 or so, in the next chapter she is 127 years old at the time of her death.
- Between chapters 21 and 23, approximately 30-33 years pass by, meaning Isaac might be around 30 years old.

### *“God tempted / tested Abraham”*

Tempted: (H5254) *nacah*, *naw-saw'*; to test; to prove, tempt, try.

- **1<sup>st</sup> mention** of “tested” / “tempted” KJV

#### Rule of 1<sup>st</sup> mention:

- Sets or establishes a precedent.
- Emphasizes an important doctrine.
- Signifies an important event typologically.
- This word “tempted” / “tested” is only used 14 times in the Bible; this is the only time that it is used to denote God testing man.
- All the other times that this word is used; it is either a warning not to “test” / “tempt” God or questioning man for why he is doing so.
- The only use, the singular use of this word this way is between God and Abraham as it relates to the sacrifice of his only son.
- I'm not sure what all the inferences are in this scenario except to say that this is a very singular situation, a very special situation.
- Even though this is the first use of this word this way, it is not Abrahams first test so to speak.

How would this “test” be any different than the last 25-30 years?

1. Leave your home, and your family, and go to a place that I’ll tell you.
2. God’s promise of a son, innumerable descendants.
3. Famine in Canaan.
4. Battle with Chedorlaomer.
5. Tithes to Melchizedez.
6. Circumcision.
7. Hagar & Ishmael – conception to sending out.
8. Abimelech.

**James 1:12-14** <sup>12</sup>“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. <sup>13</sup>Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: <sup>14</sup>but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”

**Hebrews 11:17** “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,”

- God knew all along exactly what Abraham would do. These things are playing out so that Abraham, Sarah, and all those around them would know that the Lord Himself meant more to Abraham than even his only son Isaac.
- That his relationship with God had the highest priority in his life, fulfilling:

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- The tests that we face in life always come down to just a couple of basic things:
  1. Do we love God more than the thing, or issue, persons, or circumstance?
  2. Or do we love those things more than we love God?

*“and said to him, Abraham: and he said, behold, here I am.”*

- God called to Abraham, and Abraham answered immediately – because he was waiting on the Lord.

V: 2 *“...Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest...”*

- God pointedly does not acknowledge Ishmael as one of Abraham’s sons; He does not recognize the son of the flesh, just like He does not recognize the works of the flesh.

V: 2 (cont.)

- From God's standpoint, only the son of promise is acknowledged or recognized.
- God also acknowledges Abraham's love for Isaac. God knows Abraham's heart.

**Psalm 139:1-3**     <sup>1</sup>"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. <sup>2</sup>Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup>Thou compasses / comprehend my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways."

*"whom thou lovest..."*     **1<sup>st</sup> mention** of "love" in any form in the Bible.

- It is significant that the 1<sup>st</sup> mention of "love" in the Bible is used to describe the love of the Father for the Son.

"Lovest" – (H157) 'ahab, aw-hab'; to have affection for, love like a husband / wife, brother, friend, object, or otherwise.

- In the NT, the first mention of love is in **Matthew 3:17** when Jesus emerges from the water of baptism and a voice from heaven *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*
- In fact all 3 synoptic gospels are the same in that regard. The gospel of John is a little different:

**John 3:16**     *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

*"... get thee into the land of Moriah..."*

- Moriah will later become the site of Solomon's temple; built on the threshing floor of Araunah.

**2 Chronicles 3:1**     *"Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite."*

*"and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."*

"Offer" – (H5927). 'alah, aw-law'; - "to lift up" – just as Jesus would be "lifted up" on the cross for our sins.

- Human sacrifice? Farfetched?  
**Testimony:** Mike & Grace when we first started walking with the Lord – Grace concerned about the divide between us.

- Husbands, wives, children, careers, etc., can all be idols in our lives if we let them.

Jesus tells us:

**Matthew 10:37** “He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of me.”

**Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

V: 3 Obedience! No hesitation – “*he rose up early*”

- Abraham gathers the things he needs and goes out to do what God told him to do.

**Hebrews 11:17-19** “<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, <sup>18</sup>Of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called: <sup>19</sup>Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

- Abraham, like us, may not understand all of God’s plan concerning our lives – but there is a confidence that God is good, and His will is perfect.
- Abraham knows God’s promise and believes it, he knows that if God requires Isaac’s life, then God must plan on raising him from the dead or at least have something in mind because Isaac hasn’t had children yet.

V: 4 “Then on the third day...”

- From the time that God had commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham had considered him as being dead.

Paul presents the Gospel:

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

- Paul makes this statement as though it was from the Old Testament, and this is the only place that makes reference to the son dying and being resurrected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

V: 5 The two young men, like the two thieves that accompanied Jesus to Calvary could only go so far – they couldn't do what Jesus was sent to do.

- Isaac and I will go “worship”.

“worship” – (H7812. shachah, shaw-khaw'; to prostrate, to bow down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

- Sometimes as we sing praises to God and lift our hands, we say that we have been worshipping God, but technically that is not what the Bible terms as worship.
- The word worship means “to bow down”. It is a reference to the bowing down of my will to God.
- You can lift your hands and sing with your eyes closed, but you may be resisting God in your heart.
- What Abraham is really saying to these young men is, “we're going to go up to that mountain and bow down our will to God.”

As Jesus prepared to go to the cross that was His prayer:

**Matthew 26:39** “...O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

*“... I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.”*

- We will worship the Lord, then we will come back.
- Abraham was confident that God would restore his son.

V: 6 Isaac carried the wood on his back up to Calvary, as did Jesus.

- Abraham brought the fire and the knife, both symbolic of judgment.

V: 7-8 Isaac questions where is the lamb for the sacrifice?

- Abraham responds that “God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:”

**John 1:29** “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

1 Peter 1:18-19

**1 Peter 1:18-19** <sup>18</sup>“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

- Abraham speaks prophecy, a lamb is not the same as a ram.

V: 9 Abraham has built altars to worship the Lord in the past, this will be his final and ultimate sacrificial offering.

1. Genesis 12:7 Sychar / Shechem Shoulder, in the center of Israel.
2. Genesis 12:8 Bethel House of God.
3. Genesis 13:4 Bethel again.
4. Genesis 13:18 Hebron & Mamre Richness & Communion.
5. Genesis 22:9 Moriah / Calvary / Golgotha

- Bound his son, who yielded to his 125-33 year old father.

Speaking of Jesus Paul wrote:

**Philippians 2:8** “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

V: 10 Abraham took hold of the knife and was about to slay his son.

As Isaac lay there looking into his father’s eyes – what did he see?

Speaking of God, Solomon prayed:

**2 Chronicles 6:30b** “for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men.”

- God knew Abrahams heart, that he was going to go through with it – his faith was real.

**James 2:18-21** <sup>18</sup>“Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup>Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. <sup>20</sup>But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?”

**Genesis 15:6** “And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”

- Abraham had already been accounted righteous because of his faith – now his faith was manifest – tested and real.
- Abrahams faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

V: 11-12 “The angel of the Lord” - Jesus call out to Abraham from Heaven and stopped him after he had done in his heart what he was about to do physically.

- Jesus always addressed the issues of the heart, knowing that was where the actions originate from.
- Still the 3<sup>rd</sup> day – on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He rose again.
- God does not allow human sacrifice.
  1. It contradicts His word – thou shalt not kill / murder.
  2. God wouldn't allow Isaac to be compared as such to Jesus.
  3. Man cannot offer anything close to the sacrifice that God made for us.

**Romans 8:32** “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

V: 13 The altar is ready to go, Abraham sees a ram – caught in a thicket – a substitutionary sacrifice provided by the Lord - another typology.

V: 14 Abraham names the place – Jehovah Jireh – “The Lord will provide.”

- The same place would later be called “Golgotha” – Hebrew for “place of a skull” – Calvary in Latin.
- Prophecy: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

V: 15-18 God renews His vow / covenant with Abraham.

- God swears an oath on His own name because there is no name that is greater to swear by.

**Hebrews 6:13-18** “For when god made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, ...”

- By faith, Abraham withheld nothing and obeyed God.

1<sup>st</sup> mention of obedience – “obeyed”

**1 Samuel 15:22** “... behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

**John 14:21** “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:...”

- Being obedient to His word is that act of faith, that proof of our stated faith, the evidence. – Our offering to Him!

Messianic prophecy:

*“And in thy seed (singular) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because thou hast obeyed my voice.”*

**Galatians 3:16** “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ.”

V: 19 Abraham returns to the servants, and goes home.

- No mention of Isaac – until he receives his bride.

V: 20-24 Abraham learns that his brother has children, including one who would later be a bride for his son.