

“God Will Provide The Sacrifice”

Genesis 22:1-19

GOD TESTED ABRAHAM. v.1-6

1. God’s test was to prove the reality/quality of Abraham’s faith. v.1-2

- 3 commands: Take your son... go to the land of Moriah... offer him there as a burnt offering. Ref. Lev 1:4f
- Faith leads to obedience. “Here am I.” Moses (Ex. 3:4), Samuel (1 Sam 3:4), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8)

2. God’s command tested Abraham’s whole life.

- Past: the son for whom Abraham had waited 25 years.
- Future: the son through whom the Savior would come and bless all the nations of the earth.
- Present: the son whom Abraham loved—his only son. v.2 (ref. Gen. 21:8-21).

3. Abraham responded in obedient faith.

- v.3: He rose early, cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out for Moriah.
- v.4: He traveled for 3 days.
- v.5: He went in an act of obedient worship.
- v.5: He went in an act of faith: ‘we will go... we will worship... we will come to you again....’ Heb. 11:17-19

Hebrews 11:17-19: By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

- v.6: He protected young Isaac with a father’s care. Abraham carried the knife and the fire.

GOD WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB. v.7-14

1. The dialogue in v.7-8 is the pivotal point of the story. v.7-8

- It is the only place in the story where Isaac speaks. v.7
- It is the focal point of the literary structure of the text.
- This account is in the literary form of a chiasmic structure. (see back of outline)

→ Abraham and Isaac have no sacrifice to bring to God! → God Himself will provide a sacrifice!

2. Abraham continued in obedient faith. v.9-10

- In the Hebrew, each step of the process begins with the word “and” (7 X’s in these 2 verses).

3. The angel of the LORD called to Abraham and stopped his hand. v.11-12

4. The LORD provided a ram as a burnt offering in place of Isaac. v.13-14

- Abraham took a ram caught in a thicket and offered it up as a burnt offering. v.13
- He offered the ram ‘instead’ (in place of) his son. Abraham named the place: “The LORD will provide.” v.14

CHRIST AND THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS 22

- John 8:56: Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.

1. The picture of substitutionary atonement—one dying in the place of another.

- John 1:29: (John the Baptizer): Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

2. The offering of a ‘one and only son’—loved by his father. v.2, 12, 16; Ref. Rom. 8:32; John 3:16; Mark 9:7

3. The location (Mount Moriah) is the future site of Israel’s Temple and of Christ’s crucifixion. v.2

- 2 Chronicles 3:1: Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah....
-1000 years later Solomon would build the temple on this location.
-1000 years after that, Jesus ‘the Final Temple’ would be offered up for the sins of His people.

4. The reality of man’s inability to provide what God commands/requires. v.7-8

5. The renewal of God’s promise of an offspring who will bring blessing to the nations of the earth. v.15-18

- The covenantal promise repeated. v.17-18
-I will bless you and multiply your offspring... as the stars of heaven and the sand on the seashore. v.17a
-And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies. v.17b. Ref. Romans 6:11-14
-And in your offspring blessing shall come to all the nations of the earth. v.18

This text of Genesis is in the form of a chiastic structure.

A The word of Elohim (v.1-2)
 'Here I am'
 'your only son'
 'offer him as a burnt offering'

B Actions (v.3-6)
 'And he took'
 'he cut the wood'
 'the place that God had told him'
 'and he set it'
 'the knife'

C Dialogue (v.7-8)

B' Actions (v.9-10)
 'And he took'
 'he set the wood'
 'the place that God had told him'
 'the knife'

A' The word of Yahweh (v.11-19)
 'Here I am'
 'your only son'
 'offered it as a burnt offering'

Psalm 40:6-8 speaks of Christ saying 'Here am I' to God's call...

You have not desired sacrifice and meal offering;
You have opened my ears;
You have not required burnt offering and sin offering.
7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
It is written of me in the scroll of the book.
8 I delight to do Your will, my God;
Your Law is within my heart."