

“The Test Of Faith”

Genesis 22:1-24

Introduction

I The Testing Of Abraham

- A. God commanded him to take his son: - Deut 13:3; Prov 17:3
 - 1. His only son, Isaac, whom he **loved** - Jn 3:16
 - 2. And go the region of Moriah - 1 Chr 21:18; 2 Chr 3:1
- B. God commanded him to **sacrifice** his son - Matt 10:37-39
 - 1. As a burnt offering - Is 53:10-11
 - 2. On the **mountain** God would tell him about

II The Obedience Of Abraham

- A. He got up **early** the next morning - Jn 14:21; Ps 119:60
 - 1. He saddled his donkey and cut wood for the **offering**
 - 2. He took two servants and Isaac with him
 - 3. He set out for the place God had told him about
- B. He saw the place in the distance on the **3rd** day - 1 Cor 15:4
 - 1. He left his servants with the donkey, saying:
 - a. “**We** will worship”
 - b. “And then **we** will come back to you” - Heb 11:17-19
- C. He **prepared** for the sacrifice
 - 1. He placed the wood on Isaac’s **shoulders** - Jn 19:17
 - 2. He carried the fire and the knife
 - 3. He answered Isaac’s question regarding the lamb
 - a. “The Lord himself will **provide** the lamb” - Jn 1:29
 - 4. He built an altar and arranged the wood
 - a. At the place God had told him about - Matt 26:39
 - 5. He **bound** Isaac and laid him on the altar - Is 53:7
 - 6. He took the knife to **slay** his son - James 2:20-24

III The Divine Intervention

- A. The angel of the Lord called out from heaven and said:
 - 1. “Do not lay a hand on the boy”
 - 2. “Do not do anything to him”
 - 3. “Now I know that you **fear** God” - Ps 112:1; Ps 25:12, 14
 - a. “Because you did not **withhold** your son” - Rom 8:32

- B. God provided a **ram** for the burnt offering
 - 1. Abraham **sacrificed** the ram instead of his son - 1Tim 2:6
 - 2. Abraham called the place, “The Lord Will **Provide**”
 - a. “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided”
- C. The angel of the Lord called out a 2nd time and said:
 - 1. “Because you have not withheld your only son”
 - a. “I swear I will surely **bless** you” - Heb 6:13-14
 - 2. “I will make your descendents as numerous as”:
 - a. “The **stars** of the sky”
 - b. “The **sand** on the seashore” - Heb 11:12
 - 3. “They will possess their enemies’ cities” - 2 Cor 10:5
 - 4. “Through your offspring all nations will be **blessed**”
 - a. “Because you have **obeyed** me” - Gen 26:4-5

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Take some time this week to consider the following:
- 1. Share a time when God asked you to “lay something down” that was very important to you. How did you respond?
 - 2. Do you think Abraham would have actually killed Isaac? [Hint: Heb 11:17-19]. Why does God wait until the last moment to stop him? These three days of Abraham and Isaac’s life could easily be perceived as “wasted”. What value did they have for Abraham? What value do “wasted” days have in your life?
 - 3. Where do you sense God testing you today? Is there something he is asking you to “lay down” or “sacrifice”? How are you responding? Read James 1:2-5. How should you respond?
 - 4. Read carefully through Gen 22. Compare the sacrifice of Isaac and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. How are they similar? How are they different? How does this heighten your understanding of, and appreciation for the gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - 5. Take a moment to thank God for His plan of salvation and for the gift of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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