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” - Ps 112:1; Ps 25:12, 14
   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 withhold your only son”
         a. “I swear I will surely bless you” - Heb 6:13-14
      2. “I will make your descendants 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!

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