

Genesis 22.1-18

“Offering the Son”

TV NEWS > Great Emphasis on FEELINGS

How did you feel when you witnessed bank robbery?

How did you feel when you heard your family died in that plane crash?

How did it feel to be involved in the largest traffic accident in history of our city?

MEANING > Anything that DOES NOT FEEL GOOD = Wrong / AVOIDED

GREATEST ATTAINMENT in Life > Being Happy and Feeling Good

CHURCH > Jesus gives peace / happiness / joy / Smile, God loves You! T-Shirts

1. The Test – Opportunity for Faith
2. The Triumph – Obedience of Faith
3. The Type – Object of Faith

1. The Test – Opportunity for Faith

a. Madness GOD’S COMMAND seemingly Contradicts GOD’S PROMISES

THIRTY YEARS WAITING ... Promise Fulfilled > PEACE SHATTERED

v. 2 God said, "Take your son, *your only son*, Isaac, *whom you love*, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains"

God’s WORDS INTENSIFY the Madness: *your only son... whom you love*

ISAAC > YOUNG MAN > 20’s or 30’s

21.34 “Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for *a long time*.”

v. 1 “*Some time later* God tested Abraham.”

ELDERLY PARENTS > Built all Hopes, all Future on Son of Laughter

17.19 God said, "...your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant”

God CONTRADICTS their Understanding, Expectations, Hopes, Plans, Dreams

Recent News in USA > Parents who Drowned, Butcher, and Starve CHILDREN
EVOKES REVULSION & DISGUST > Public Cry for Most Severe Punishment

“I don’t believe in sacrifice. If the story of Abraham and Isaac is true, Abraham was insane, not religious.”
Noah Gordon

Oh God said to Abraham, "Kill me a son"
Abe says, "Man, you must be puttin' me on"
God say, "No." Abe say, "What?"
God say, "You can do what you want Abe, but
The next time you see me comin' you better run"
Well Abe says, "Where do you want this killin' done ?"
God says. "Out on Highway 61".

Bob Dylan ‘Highway 61 Revisited’

b. Maturity ABE GROWING TO NEW LEVEL > God Trusts him with TEST

Abe walking with God in the School of Faith > Over 50 years of Growing

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Exodus 20.20

FAMILY TEST – called to leave Ur and Haran for Canaan

FAMINE TEST – went to Egypt to get food

FELLOWSHIP TEST – offered best land to nephew Lot

FIGHT TEST – with 318 men defeated 4 kings & armies and rescued Lot

FORTUNE TEST – refused wealth of King of Sodom

FATHERHOOD TEST – *FAILED* – brought Ishmael into world

FAREWELL TEST – commanded to send Ishmael and Hagar away

v. 1 “Some time later God tested Abraham.”

We Must LEARN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TESTING & TEMPTATIONS

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.” James 1.12-14

Go thru Trials > 2 Results > Grow thru Test > Fall thru Temptation

TEMPTATION > Comes from Desires within us

TRIALS > Come from the Lord who has special purpose for us to fulfill

TEMPTATION > used by the devil to bring the worst out in us

TRIALS > used by Holy Spirit to bring the best out in us

TEMPTATION > seem very logical > easy to talk yourself into them

“God would not expect you to be so unhappy” > “God wants you to have fun!!”

“Having an affair would probably put some new life into your marriage”

TRIALS > seem very unreasonable sometimes

“Why should an adult put up with that?” “Everyone will laugh at you – ashamed”

Why should God have Abraham wait for a son 30 years and then ask to Kill Him?

TEMPTATION > faced by all people in many ways

TRIALS > tailor made by God for His children to grow more like Him

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?”

2 Corinthians 13.5

c. Meaning DOES ABE KNOW GOD? HOW MUCH DOES HE TRUST GOD?

“Isaac represents many gifts of God’s grace. Before God gives them our hands are empty. Afterwards they are full. Sometimes God reaches out His hand to take ours in fellowship. Then we need an empty hand to put into His. But when we have received all His gifts and are nursing them to ourselves, our hands are full, and when God puts out His hand we have no empty hand for him...Isaac can be done without, but God is eternal.”

Watchman Nee

Who is God? > EXTREME IDEAS > Blood thirsty? Cruel? Tortuous?

OPPOSITE EXTREME > Doting Santa Claus > Game Show Host giving Prizes

In this TEST > Abraham faced 2 POSSIBILITIES to Reconcile Conflict

1. God was ERRATIC, Confused, Changing Mind > Experience proved this False

2 Problem w/ him: Limited Understanding, Finite Vision, Sin-Distorted Perspective

Trust > God had SOLUTION > He would work it out in His Perfect Timing

RARELY HEAR SUCH TESTIMONIES > Gut Wrenching Obedience

COMMON > God made me So Happy, Filled with Joy, Endless Peace

RARELY > God drove me crazy with fear and worry > Agonizing Desperation

God made me more miserable than I have felt in my entire Life

JET LANDING > Pilot thrusts Engines into Reverse to Come to a Full Stop

“Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, to do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible...Faith does not demand explanations, faith rests on promises” Warren Wiersbe

2. The Triumph – Obedience of Faith

a. Prompt HARD TO IMAGINE > Eagerly Preparing for Killing his Son

No TIME DEADLINE GIVEN by God > Most would linger, Delay Dreaded Duty

WE WOULD NOT BLAME ABE FOR PUTTING THIS OFF

POSTPONED OBEDIENCE > Sometimes leads to a Failure to Obey at All

MY ALARM CLOCK > Positioned on Other Side of Bedroom

If I can reach it from Bed > Roll Over and Fall Back to Sleep

“I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.” Psalm 119.60

PATTERN OF PROMPT RIGHTEOUS OBEDIENCE

When **COMMANDED TO SEND HAGAR AND ISHMAEL AWAY**

21.14 “Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar...and then sent her off with the boy”

When **TOLD TO BE CIRUCUMSISED** > Him and all Men in Household

17.23 “On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household...and circumcised them, as God told him”

TOLD TO SACRIFICE ISAAC > before he could Rationalize and Relativize

v. 3 “Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey.”

b. Persevering LONG, HARD, DIFFICULT OBEDIENCE

Mt. Moriah was 75 kms from Beersheba > 3 Days Walk

MORIAH > Jerusalem would later be Built / 2000 yrs later > Jesus Crucified There

LONG TIRING TREK > Sharply Focused on Mission > No Time for Resting

v. 9 “When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.”

TODAY > Results Measured in **NANOSECONDS** > Immediate Satisfaction

We **COMPLAIN** when our **LAPTOP** takes **TOO LONG** to **BOOT** – How about Us?

Do we know what it means to **PERSEVERE**? Long Walk with God? Endurance?

MAN WHO KNEW WHAT WAS NEEDED > Only God knows **IF** he Did **IT**

“The essential thing in heaven and earth is that there should be a long distance obedience in the same direction which always results in the long run in something which makes life worth living.”
Friedrich Nietzsche

Long Distance **OBEDIENCE IN SAME DIRECTION** > Makes Life Worth Living

God is Making Believers > Churches > Families > Who Will **PERSEVERE**

“He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 1.8

c. Pleased Offering his son > ACT OF WORSHIP

v. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. *We will worship* and then we will come back to you."

SURPRISING WORD for Slaying your Own Son > WORSHIP

NOT Understood as GRUESOME ACT DEMANDED BY A SADISTIC DEITY

NOT GRITTING HIS TEETH AND GRUDGINGLY OBEYING > Grumbling

ACT OF DEVOTION > Heart of Love for God > Joy NOT in TASK but in GOD

CONFIDENT LIKE JOB > who lived about same time as Abraham

"Why do I put myself in jeopardy and take my life in my hands? *Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him*; I will surely defend my ways to his face. Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance, for no godless man would dare come before him!"

Job 13.14-16

d. Purposeful CALM AND CONTROLLED

v. 5 He said to his servants, "*Stay here with the donkey* while I and the boy go"

MIND & HEART RACING with Confusion, Questions, and Pain > Outward Peace

SON AND SERVANTS DETECTED NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

GOD'S PEACE GUARDED HIS HEART AND MIND "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal." Isaiah 26.3,4

e. Persuasive ISAAC – 20 or 30 yrs old – WILLINGLY OBEYS

vs. 6 - 10 "Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and

arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”

NOT ONLY did ABE BELIEVE > CONVEYED that FAITH to His Grown Son
 BEHAVIOR CONSISTENT with all HE KNEW and SEEN in His Father
 GOD HAD ALWAYS BEEN > Jehovah Jireh > God the Provider to their Family
 “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”
 Proverbs 22.6

Verse NOT Blanket Promise > NOT Every Child of BELIEVER will Believe
 Woman in Church in Hawaii > Tearfully shared how CHILDREN NOT Believing
 Asked about her Life > Most Important DAILY ROUTINE > Watching TV Serials
 ARE FOLLOWING > Trained them to Love the World > HAVE GONE to World
 PROVERB > Way you Point them Most Often > Most Likely to Follow

CAN WE HONESTLY TELL OUR CHILDREN?

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11.1

f. Proven ABRAHAM PASSED THIS AGONIZING TEST

GOD BROKE DEAFENING SILENCE > “Stop!” > So Good Abe Quick to Listen
 ONLY 8th Time in 50 years of Walking with God > Bible Records God Speaking

v. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. *Now I know that you fear God*, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

“Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.” James 2.21-23

g. Provided ABRAHAM SPOKE WORD OF FAITH > No One Else to Trust

v. 8 "God himself **will provide** the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

WE READ STORY 4000 yrs. Later > WE KNOW THE ENDING > Abe Didn't
 "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar...If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. *But even if he does not*, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."
 Daniel 3.16-18

GOD PROVIDED A BETTER SACRIFICE

vs. 13,14 "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

h. Promise GOD'S 'Well Done' to this GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT

v. 16-18 "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

First Time WORD 'OBEY' used in Bible > Great Act of Obedience

HEARD PROMISE > Descendents as Numerous as Stars in Sky > Genesis 15

NOW GOD ADDS "and as the sand on the seashore"

NAKED EYE > Clear Night most can see about 3000 STARS

4000 yrs later > Powerful Telescopes > # of Stars // # of Grains of Sand

GOD ALSO PROVIDED WIFE FOR ISAAC > Stars will Fill God's Sky

NEWS FROM HOME v. 23 "Bethuel became the father of Rebekah."

PROMISE FOR US AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” Romans 8.32

3. The Type – Object of Faith

“So long as men live in the world, they will turn to this story with unwaning interest. There is only one scene in history by which it is surpassed: that is where the Great Father gave His Isaac to a death from which there was no deliverance.”

F.B. Meyer

ANGEL OF THE LORD > Identified as God Himself > The Lord Jesus?

vs. 15,16 “The angel of the LORD called to Abraham...and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD”

DID JESUS HAVE FRONT ROW SEAT > Witness Foreshadowing own Death?

a. Beloved BOTH SONS DEEPLY LOVED BY FATHERS

v. 2 "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love”

2000 years later > as Jesus stood in Jordan River to be Baptized

“A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
Matthew 3.17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3.16

b. Burdened – *Active Obedience* BOTH SONS CARRIED THEIR CROSSES

v. 6 “Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together”

‘wood’ mentioned 5 x’s > Isaac CARRIED THE BURDEN

Theologians > “Active Obedience of Christ” = He does all things Well > Sinless

JESUS DEFINED HIS MISSION: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10.45

“Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him”
Hebrews 5.8,9

c. Bound – *Passive Obedience* SONS WILLINGLY LAID LIVES DOWN

vs. 9,10 “He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”

“Passive Obedience” willing Submission > to be Suffering Savior, Substitute

SON carries the Wood > FATHER brings the knife and the fire

“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”
Isaiah 53.4-7

d. Blessed SAW GLORIOUS REWARD TO THEIR OBEDIENCE

“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”
John 8.56

MEANING? > Some say “Abe saw Jesus on earth, he’s been in Heaven 2000 yrs”

CONTEXT > Jesus PRE-EXISTENCE, not Abraham’s Continued Consciousness

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8.58

v. 56 Jesus speaks in PAST TENSE > Abe REJOICED, he SAW IT

Here story recorded in Genesis 22 > 2000 yrs before Jesus came to Earth > Saw

1) Seriousness of Sin > Abe held the Knife and Fire > Deadly Tokens of Wrath

2) Substitution for Sinner > Ram who Died on Isaac's Altar

v. 7 Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Jehovah Jireh – God WILL Provide

2000 years Later Questioned answered by John the Baptist

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
John 1.29

3) Son Risen from Dead v 5 "We will worship and then we will come back to you"

"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and *figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.*"
Hebrews 11.17-19

HOW GREAT ABRAHAM'S JOY AND RELIEF MUST HAVE BEEN!

4) Salvation to the Nations > take a good look around this room!

v. 18 "through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed"

Abe saw STARS and SAND > We see SINNER and SAINTS > Coming to God

PROPHETIC PSALM > God's Sovereign Son

"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness... Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long. Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field. May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed." Psalm 72.1,15-17

Genesis 22

1. Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." 3. Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6. Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7. Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8. Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13. Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15. The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16. and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17. I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18. and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."