

Genesis chapter 22 takes readers down the path of Abraham's most famous story. It's his encounter with God's test that specifically involves his long-awaited son. How Abraham responds not only gives us a picture of extravagant faith, but also a foreshadow of things to come, namely, the substitutionary atonement of the Savior through the provision of God the Father.

Genesis 22:1-23

The Sacrifice of Isaac

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

When we want to determine (or prove) the ability of something, we test it. Whether in academia, an engineered structure, or even the taste of a meal, in order to know how informed, strong, or pleasant something is, we have ways to test it. We can infer a similar idea when it comes to our faith. God sometimes desires to put our faith to the test in order to not only prove it, but also provide a path for growth.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW has your faith ever been test?

WHAT was the outcome of a recent "faith-testing" you experienced?

WHY does God allow our faith to be tested? **DO** you think He is the one doing the testing, or are there other ways to explain the various trials we come upon in our walk with God?

ARE there fears you have when you consider how God might choose to put your faith to the test?

Genesis 22:1-23 Read Genesis 22:1-23

The Sacrifice of Isaac

OBSERVATION

How does God choose to test Abraham in vs. 1-2?

How does the text describe Isaac in vs. 2?

Where does God tell Abraham to perform the task before him (vs. 2)?

What does Abraham tell the men with him in vs. 5?

What question does Isaac ask in vs. 7 and how does Abraham respond?

According to vs. 10, how does the text describe the event about to happen?

Who appears to Abraham in vs. 11, and what does he say (vs. 12)?

What does the Lord provide for Abraham in vs. 13?

According to vs. 17-18 what is Abraham reminded of?

INTERPRETATION

How does the description of Isaac in vs. 2 correlate to God's description of Jesus? See John 3:16.

Where was Mr. Moriah? What connection do you see in this location and what will one day be built here? See 2 Chronicles 3:1.

What insight does vs. 5 reveal about Abraham's faith in this event? What might he have been thinking as he proceeded to sacrifice his son? Consider Hebrews 11:17-19 for insight.

According to vs. 8, how does Abraham and his faith in God's provision relate to God's provision for us in His Son? What does John 1:29 reveal regarding God's provision for us?

Why would God ask Abraham to bring a human sacrifice as an offering? Consider how His laws (Isaiah 57:5 and Ezekiel 16:21; 23:39) given in the future would show His heart for the kind of sacrifices offered.

Why does God remind Abraham of the covenant originally given in Genesis 12:1-3? Specifically, why does He remind Abraham by *whom* He swore this covenant (vs. 15)?

What connection is there between vs. 12 and vs. 18? Consider Proverbs 1:7.

APPLICATION

How might you describe your faith in God? What about when it comes to trusting Him with providing us with *the* Lamb who takes away our sin? Are there precious people or things that you trust more fully than Him?