

Genesis: God and Man

God Tested Abraham

Genesis 21:1-8

Genesis 22:1-19

What have you been tested for in life?

- School, the dreaded pop quiz
- Driver's license
- Pulled over, breathalyzer?
- Work, to see if your resume was legit and if you were right for the job "freelance to hire"
- A trying time - family, relationship, or health problem
- Something that would shake your faith

I believe the goal of God's testing in our lives is not to shake us

Not to make us say "uncle"

But to plant us

To root and ground us in faith in even more

And to reveal to us his power, that we might say LORD when we see the LORD

Eph 3:13-21 NKJV - Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what [is] the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Jas 1:2-4 NKJV - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Genesis 21:1-8

The Lord visited Sarah as he has said

Psa 110:4 NKJV - The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You [are] a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

What God says, he will do! He will stop at nothing to bring his word to pass.

The only thing that can be stopped, in a sense, is our receiving of the good end.

But Sarah received. She conceived at the time God told them

...whom Sarah bore to him...

Again, further emphasis that this was on Isaac and not Ishmael

The son of the promise vs. the son of the flesh

Circumcised on the 8th day

8th day is new beginning, resurrection, regeneration

8th day blood is able to clot

But, he did it, "as God commanded"

Abraham's motives now where to obey God and do as God commanded

Not as abraham thought

Not as Sarah wanted

Not as his customs taught him

But to do exactly as God commanded...when God commanded it

It took a while...even in the last chapter Abraham pulls a stunt again like he did in Egypt...exactly the same situation

But now Abraham, having received the promise...is a changed man

That's what will change us...receiving the promise

But don't wait until the promise is fulfilled

Let the giving of the promise be all that we need to receive it

Reminder

Heb 11:1 NKJV - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

If we have God's promise, it's as good as having it fulfilled in our hands

Called his name Isaac

He laughs, similar to the word for laughter

Yitschaq, tsachaq

Sarah said god has made me laugh

Laugh or laughing stock

She laughed in the tent...but when we don't believe God, who's the laughing stock?

Is it us or God?

The fool has said in his heart...God will laughs at the wicked...

Who would have said...

This was something unbelievable, fantastic, amazing...no one would have guessed or predicted, other than God

Abraham 100 years old...a year since ch 17, when Abraham fell on his face before the Lord, prior to the Lord's visit

Weaned

Some ancients say children were not weaned until 12 years of age and some say five years, but the most reliable research indicates an age of three. Isaac was young. Guzik

Great feast...he had made it, he had survived...he was the son of the promise

Genesis 22:1-3

It came to pass, after these things, that God tested Abraham

Testing is going to come. It always will.

Most Jewish commentators think Isaac was in his thirties at the time of this event. - Guzik

Who else was in his early thirties when he went up on a hill to be sacrificed?

Behold, here I am...Abraham was aware that he was in God's sight, vision...nowhere to hide, no need to hide.

Exposed before the Lord...being aware of that

Mia asking about the garden

Take your son....your only son Isaac

The promised son was the only son Abraham could be tested with

The only one that was qualified to be a part of the inheritance

Our flesh cannot be used to worship God in fleshly ways
 Our own devices and schemes cannot bring Glory to God

It is only the things made to us through promise, by faith, that can be used for heavenly purpose

Moriah...modern day Jerusalem

Could it have even have been the same place as Jesus? I don't know...but something to think about...research

Wait what Lord? You want me to offer him as a burnt offering????

Imagine that's what you heard in your prayer time?

Look at all the things the prophets were told to do ...

On the mountain I will show you...the next step wouldn't be until he got there
 He was told to go and God would show exactly where when he got there

So often we want the final details when we just need to head the direction God has told us. We might not know the specifics until we get there.

And Abraham rose early in the morning...no more delays from him
 God had spoken. Abraham would obey. Delayed obedience is not obedience.

The chopping of the wood...no small task

Can you picture this? Feel this? The early dawn light, the cool air, the stillness, except the lone sound of Abraham chopping

:4-8

After 3 days, the place was still afar off...

To the servants...stay here...the servants don't get to be a part of the intimacy

All the disciples fled

The israelites refused to go up on the mountain and then weren't allowed

We will go and worship and we will come back

Abraham wasn't conniving here in his old ways...he was prophesying in his faith in God

Laid the wood on Isaac, his son

Again, a picture of the cross Jesus carried

Isaac has the wood...

Abraham has the fire and knife...

Two of them went together

Can you imagine this walk?

I can just sense their love, their relationship here...of a father and his son

Jacob and I

My son, the comfort here...God will provide himself a lamb for the offering

AH ABRAHAM GOT IT

That when God brings us to a place of sacrifice, it is God who will bring the sacrifice

It is not our duty to be sacrificed for sin

He is the sacrifice

He will never sacrifice us in the offering

We are to be burnt offerings, we may suffer, we may be beaten, in a testing of our faith, but it is never for our sin

Abraham's falling asleep...cut covenant...God did the work then. God will do the work now.

EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW HOW. DON'T SEE HOW.

God promised so many things through Isaac. And if God says to sacrifice Isaac, well God has a way through death.

:9-14

Placed the wood in order...

Bound his son...Isaac let him

Abraham was in the upswing...and God stopped him.

His heart was intent on obeying the Lord, no matter what the cost

But God never intended for it to cost him anything

Angel of the LORD...who's that...Jesus! The messenger (angel)

Abraham...Abraham...
(Samuel...Samuel...)

Here am I...

When God calls, answer here am I!

I know that you fear God...God knew it...but like all things, we must be tried and tested, proved like gold

Mal 3:2-4 NKJV - "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He [is] like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.

There was a ram in the bushes...ready to be sacrificed

Not the final lamb

He wasn't looking for a way out

He wasn't looking for an animal, an excuse, a shortcut

The answer was provided after Abraham was willing to answer God with his everything...his only son...his love...his Isaac

What do we hold back from the Lord? Perhaps we haven't heard because we have held back

Jehovah Jireh

The depths of saying that...God is his provider

We have to come to a deep place of need in order to say deeply that God is our provider

We cannot attest to him being so, until we've been tested for him to provide

Our testing is not to prove our ability...it is to reveal God's ability

:15-19

By rough calculations, the number of stars in the sky and grains of sand on the seashore are the same: 10 to the 25th power.

A second time...the promise reiterated after,through, during the sacrifice

Gen 22:18 NKJV - "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The promise would be fulfilled through obedience...Abraham's obedience would be a catalyst for the fulfillment.

**Would it have been as sweet otherwise?
Would Abraham have appeared spoiled?
Would have God appeared unjust?**

They went back and lived elsewhere...after the promise, after the sacrifice, your dwelling place is never the same

**Through the sacrifice God shows his justice...the cross
Abraham shows his faith in God's provision and promise...humility in faith
The depth of all of their relationships were now to death.
There was nothing left but faith, hope, and love**

1Co 13:12-13 NKJV - For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these [is] love.