

## Trusting God Alone

Genesis 22:1-24 - NCBC, February 27, 2022

Main Point: **God often tests your faith so you can know that He is truly enough.**

- *Prologue* – The Mercy of God even when you don't trust in God alone (22:1a)
- God tests the object of your love (22:1-3)
  - What is the "Isaac" in your life?
- God tests the extent of your worship (22:4-6)
  - Is there any command of God you are unwilling to obey?
- God tests the source of your provision (22:7-8)
  - On whose performance do you depend?
- God tests the motive of your obedience (22:9-19)
  - Who are you living for?
- *Epilogue* – The Grace of God when you do trust in God alone (22:20-24)

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### Opening Announcements:

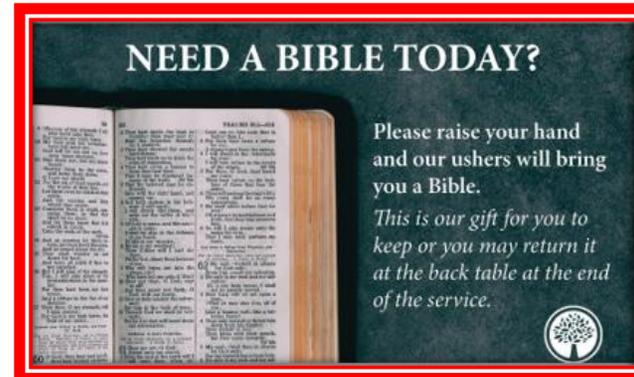
- Please plan to join us **tonight, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm**, for one of our quarterly Congregational Meetings. Come hear ministry updates from our elders and worship in a time of prayer together.
- **Next Sunday, Mar 6**, during the 9:30a Sunday School Hour, please join us for an hour of praying together. Our leaders will lead us in the worship of humble dependence! Don't miss it!

<<Christ the True and Better>>



It is so good to sing together the whole story line of **Scripture**. Jesus is everything we need, and His glory is the ultimate satisfaction of our souls.

Please open your Bible to **Genesis chapter 12** where we will read God's promise to Abraham, which helps set up our Scripture today of Abraham offering Isaac today in **Genesis chapter 22**.



If you do not have a Bible with you, we'd love to give you a Bible. Simply raise your hand as the ushers come by.

And while we're preparing to read from **Genesis chapter 12**, I want to make sure that you are all aware of our new "Post-Sermon Wrap-Up Podcast."



Every Wednesday we send out a brief 15-20 minute recording of a couple of us pastors talking through last week's sermon together. This podcast is a great mid-week reminder of what was taught from God's Word on Sunday, and offers an opportunity for our pastors to dig in a bit deeper to some concepts that the sermon didn't allow time for on Sunday.

Look for the Post-Sermon Wrap-Up Podcast link each Wednesday afternoon in our weekly prayer email, or through our website and social media resources.



Now, today we're focusing on **Genesis chapter 22**, where God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. To help us set the stage for **chapter 22**, we're actually going to read the first 3 verses of **Genesis chapter 12**.

So if you're able, please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word, as I read from the ESV translation, starting in **Genesis 12, verse 1**, where the Abrahamic Covenant is first given to Abram:

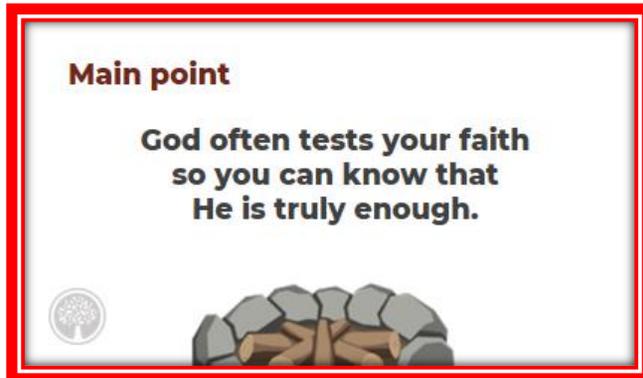
*Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

**This is the reading of God's Word. Let's Pray.**

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**Genesis 22** pushes our understanding of what it means to “trust God.” What does it mean to trust in God, and God alone? Not God plus other things, but truly trust God alone?

When you study the test that God brings to Abraham in **Genesis 22** you learn how,



God often tests your faith so you can know that He is truly enough. At times, God mercifully brings pain into our lives so that we can learn Jesus Himself is all we actually need.

So have you yet learned the lesson that when everything else is taken away, and all that remains is Jesus... He is truly enough for you?

In 2007 Jody and I had the privilege of taking a 3-week trip to Israel. Our team had just arrived in Jerusalem on our first day. We were so excited! But when we arrived at our hotel that first night, the front desk told us that we had an urgent message from America. Oh? You need to call Jody's parents in Kansas. Oh!

You see, we had left our 18-month old daughter Abby, with our parents for this trip. She was supposed to spend the first week and a half with Jody's parents in Kansas, and then the last half with my parents in Illinois.

So we made the call with anxious hearts.

They said we're sorry to report that Abby has had a very complex seizure. We took her to the hospital, but the hospital was not able to get her seizure to stop, so they've rushed her to another hospital. Abby seized for 2.5 hours; they are very concerned about her oxygen levels.

We wept. 22 hours away. It's not like you just hop on a plane and be there.

What should we do? Should we come home?

"Well, she's stabilized now, and we're just going into our day (because it was nightfall in Jerusalem), so go ahead and get a good night's sleep (Ha!) and call us in the morning when we'll know more."

So we hung up the phone, and I held my wife, and we wept. You parents understand, don't you?

God graciously gave us rest that night.

The next morning we called, and they said, "Everything is still stable and we're still waiting on tests. So you might as well go out today, and call us when you get back, and we'll keep you posted."

Ok. So the team prayed for Abby and for us, and we all headed out to our first site. And guess where we went, church? To Mount Moriah. To **Genesis 22**. To the place where God asked Abraham, “do you love me more than you love your son?”

O, **Genesis 22** is now very special! For there’s been multiple times in our life when God has tested us, and pressed us, and always proved Himself faithful!

So prepare for this Scripture today by asking yourself, “Is it possible for God to ask too much from me?” Do you ever say, “God, I will trust you up until... fill in the blank?”

Or, “What apart from God, do you have to have, in order to make your life meaningful?” I’m asking, “what’s our idols?”

We must be honest, church. We are so quick to grab hold of things that God never intended for us to worship, and we try to get our identity and security from God’s gifts, instead of the God who gave us those gifts.

**Genesis 22** is a profound text. It’s more than a Children’s Story.

If you’re taking notes, you’ll notice that God’s testing comes in the form of a “Gospel sandwich.”

### **Genesis 22 Overview**

**Prologue** – The mercy of God when you **don’t** trust in God alone (22:1a)

- God tests the object of your **love** (22:1-3)
- God tests the extent of your **worship** (22:4-6)
- God tests the source of your **provision** (22:7-8)
- God tests the motive of your **obedience** (22:9-19)

**Epilogue** – The grace of God when you **do** trust in God alone (22:20-24)

**Genesis 22 starts with a prologue and it ends with an epilogue.** It starts with the mercy of God, and it ends with the grace of God.

Because whenever God tests our faith, He wants us to know that it is in context of His abundant mercy and astounding grace.

The meat of this account comes in 4 tests. Through God’s testing of Abraham here, we learn how God often tests the object of our love, the extent of our worship, the source of our provision, and the motive of our obedience... all so that we can experience for ourselves that God alone is truly enough for us.

So let’s look now at **chapter 22 verse 1**:



Where we discern the Mercy of God even when you don't trust in God alone.

Follow along in **verse 1**,

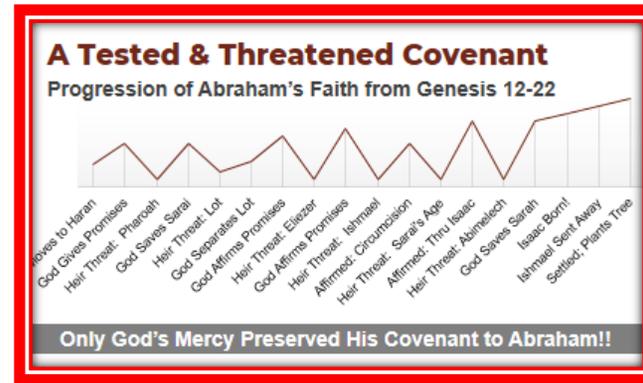
*After these things...* Time out.

After what things? What's this referring to?

Well remember, we read earlier from **Genesis chapter 12**. **Genesis chapter 12** is the Abrahamic Covenant. God's promise to make a people for Himself out of Abraham's family. God promised to give Abraham blessing, land, and a name or identity as God's nation.

By the time we get to **Genesis 22**, there's been 40-50 years since God promised to bless Abraham in **Genesis chapter 12**. And when you read through all these chapters between **Genesis 12 and Genesis 22** we find that Abraham's faith in God often failed during this time.

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 15:4; 17:16, 19, 21



I've tried to represent the ups and downs of Abraham's faith between **Genesis 12 and 22** with this simple chart. Obviously you can't read this, so don't get lost in the details, but understand this point:

Repeatedly throughout these 40-50 years while the childless Abraham is waiting for God to make a great nation from his offspring,<sup>1</sup> Abraham's weak faith threatens God's plan.

God's promise is threatened when Abraham gives Sarah to Pharaoh in **chapter 12**, when Lot stakes a claim to the same land as Abraham in **chapter 13**, when Abraham conceives Ishmael through Hagar in **chapter 16**, and then again when Abraham gives Sarah to King Abimelech in **chapter 20**.

So as you look at all the ups and downs of Abraham's faith during this time... notice: Abraham was trying to accomplish God's plan his own way. This is the "God plus Abraham show."

Since we can't have children, I'll just have a child with Hagar, and then God, you can fulfill your promise through Ishmael!<sup>2</sup> But that wasn't God's plan.

Do you ever try to take control of your own destiny? Do you think God needs your help to bail Him out of a unfulfilled promise?

Every time Abraham would try to accomplish God's plan his own way, God would mercifully intervene... God would mercifully provide and keep Abraham from getting what his unbelief deserved.

Mercy, mercy, mercy...

So, by the time we get to **Genesis 22** we've already learned that God's character is so good that,



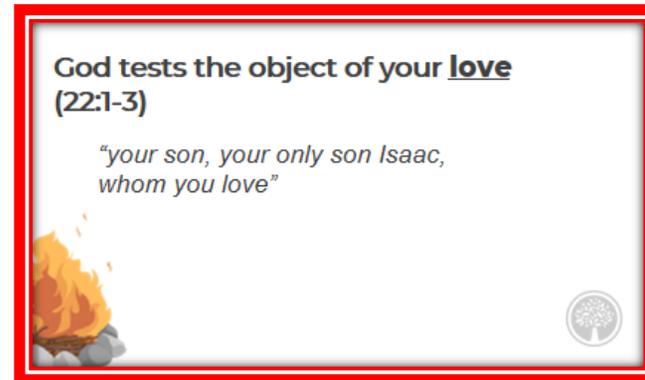
He's merciful to us even when we don't trust Him like we should.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For 13 years Abraham thought Ishmael was going to fulfill God's promise!

In **Genesis 21**, Isaac is miraculously born to Abraham and Sarah. **Chapter 21 verse 12** confirms that God is going to fulfill His Covenant through Isaac, so Ishmael is sent away. Then when Abraham plants a tree and worships God in **chapter 21, verse 33**, it's as if he's settling down, breathing a sign of relief...because all seems well. God's promises are finally coming to pass!

*Now after these things*, we get to **Genesis 22**. Where the personal God of Abraham, personally designs a test which seeks to destroy Abraham's last and only hope for the fulfillment of God's promises.

And so in these first 3 verses now, we find the first way God tests if we're trusting Him alone, when...



God tests the object of your love. What do you love?

<sup>3</sup> 2 Timothy 2:13

*After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, [notice the piling on of words here...]*

*"Take your son, your only son Isaac, [now, he had another son, Ishmael, right? But only Isaac was the son of promise!]*

*"Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

*3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.*

You see, God wanted to test the object of Abraham's love. "Your son... whom you love."

God is testing whether Abraham loved his son more than he loved Him. Whether Abraham loved the gift, more than the Giver Himself.

Church, at times God will test you to see whether you love the promises of God more than you love the promise-giver. Do we really trust God alone?<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> As soon as you say, "I must have God plus the good things that He has promised to His people," then God's blessings have become an idol in your heart. Was Abraham willing to serve and obey God even if it seemed that God was not going to honor His promises in this lifetime? God knew what

Notice how Abraham responded. This is amazing! Immediate obedience! He's showing right away that he does love the Lord!

Now remember in **Genesis 22**, Abraham was certain of God's Word. According to **Genesis 20:7** Abraham was a prophet of God. Abraham knew God's voice, so when God spoke to him, he knew it was God. So when God gave this specific command to Abraham, he had no doubt it was God speaking to him. He didn't question whether this was a bad dream or last night's burrito. Abraham knew this was God's Word the same way we know Jesus' commands in the Holy Scriptures are truly God's Word for us today.

Further, please understand **Genesis 22** is not about God commending the pagan practice of child-sacrifice.<sup>5</sup> Rather this about a God who is willing to prove that He's worth more to Abraham than even Isaac his son.

See God knew what Abraham would do. But Abraham did not know what Abraham would do. God had it all worked out, but Abraham needed to see that his faith would pass the test of trusting in God alone.

So let me ask you:

Abraham would do; but Abraham and Sarah, and all around them must know, that the LORD meant more to Abraham than even Isaac did.

<sup>5</sup> C.f. Deuteronomy 12:31, 18:10; 2 Kings 16:3, 17:17, 21:6; 2 Chronicles 28:3; Jeremiah 7:31, 19:5; Ezekiel 16:20-21

**God tests the object of your love**  
(22:1-3)

*"your son, your only son Isaac,  
whom you love"*

- What is the "**Isaac**" in your life?



What is the "Isaac" in your life? What is the "only son, whom you love" in your life?

Is it your health, approval from people, success, productivity, riches, comfort, aspects of your culture or even your religious traditions?

What is that you say, "I'll serve God as long as He doesn't take ... away from me." My spouse? My child? My life-long dream?

If you love the good favor of God more than you love God, then you are not trusting God alone. You have substituted your love of the gift for the giver!

But then in **verses 4-6** we learn how,

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<sup>6</sup> Sarah died when she was 127 (Genesis 23:1). Isaac was weaned when she was 92/93. Isaac was 37 when his mother died. The word for "boy" in verse 5 and 12 is the same word as for the young men who accompanied Abraham (Genesis 22:3, 5). Isaac was obviously strong enough to carry the wood for the burnt offering (Genesis 22:6), and thus Isaac would have been

**God tests the extent of your worship**  
(22:4-6)

*"I and the boy will go...and worship and  
[we will] come again to you."*



God tests the extent of your worship.

Look at **verse 4**,

*On the third day...*

Now notice, they've been walking for 3 days! We don't know how old Abraham is for sure, but Isaac is probably between 25-30 years old here.<sup>6</sup> Since Isaac was born when Abraham was 100,<sup>7</sup> that means Abraham is 125 or 130... and they've now been walking for 3 days.

*And... Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy [we] will go over there and [we will] worship and [we will] come again!"*

strong enough to resist the binding of his aged father, who was likely beyond 120 years old. All this suggests that Isaac was probably between 25-30 years old in Genesis 22.

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 21:5

Did you catch what a statement of faith that is for Abraham? *We will return to you!*

*And he took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.*

With the instruments of sacrifice in his hands, Abraham tells his servants *we will worship ...we will give all that God has given us back to Him, and then we will return to you.*

**Hebrews 11:17-19** says Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead. His trust in God was so strong, he said, "God whatever you ask me to do, who am I to question it? All I have has come from You, so why would I withhold giving it all back?"

By the way, what does it mean to worship? They weren't going to have a song service, right?!

*We will go and we will worship.*

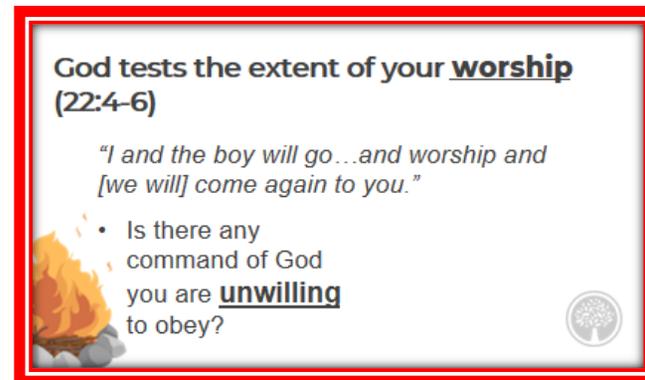
To worship just means to "bow down." It means to submit all that I am to Him.

Worship is simply bowing down to God's will, recognizing and acknowledging that God's will is best. What He does, is right, by definition! Whether we understand it now or not. God's will might involve suffering, it might involve waiting...it might involve loss, but worship is the joyful submission of my will to His will!

Abraham is convinced of **Genesis 21:12** – that Isaac is the promised seed from whom the Messiah would come. So Abraham says, No excuses. No contingency plans. He simply obeyed.

He didn't confer with others. His faith led to action. "God said it. I believe it. That settles it!"

What about you? How much do you give to God in joyful response for all that He's given you in Christ? Is there anything you are unwilling to give back to God?



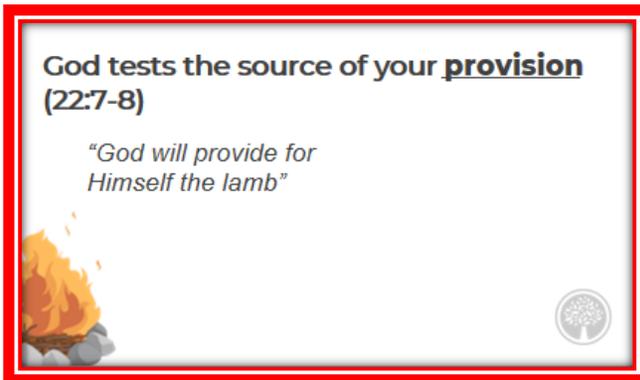
Is there any command of God you are unwilling to obey?

There's been several seasons of my life where God has tested me to the point of great crushing and fear.

Many of you also know what it's like to lose a job because of your faith in Jesus. Many of you know what's its like to lose family relationships that are very dear to you for the sake of Christ.

That's **Romans 12** worship. All on the altar. Living sacrifice.

But loved ones, there are also times when,



God tests the source of your provision, or your help. From where are we seeking our help?

### Look at verses 7-8:

*And Isaac ... remember Isaac was probably in his late 20s...*

*And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son."*

Dad? I see the fire. I see the wood. But where's the lamb for the sacrifice?

Abraham's response is such settled faith and yet such kind love:

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<sup>8</sup> Isaiah 55:8-9

*"God will provide for Himself the lamb ...*

So they both went on together.

Can you imagine their thoughts as they're treading up the dusty hill called Moriah? I believe Isaac fully understood his father's intentions. After all, one of the peaks of Moriah is called Golgatha! It's Mount Calvary!

Yet Isaac's faith in God's provision kept him walking on the path of death to self.

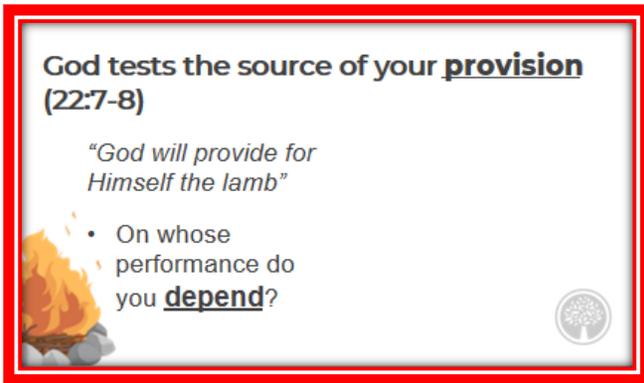
You see, we rightly give Abraham a lot of credit for his faith, but Isaac deserves a lot of credit for his faith as well. Both men were trusting in God alone. God will provide! God will provide! God will provide!

Believing against reason. Believing against human affection. Believing against selfish ambition...that God's ways are higher than my ways, and His thoughts are higher than my thoughts.<sup>8</sup> I can trust Him. He knows what He's doing!

What a high point of the entire chapter! *God will provide for Himself the lamb.*

Abraham knew this was God's test. The sacrifice was clearly for the Lord! There was nothing too costly to give back to the Lord in return for all that He was to Abraham.

And so for us,



On whose performance do you depend? Whose strength do you rely on? Where do you bank your hopes?

Are you trusting in your own ability, or are you trusting in the great provision of the Holy Spirit that indwells the believer so we have all the riches of Jesus now with us?

Do we trust in the one who says, "I am able to present you faultless before My presence with great joy on that day, and to keep you from stumbling!"?<sup>9</sup>

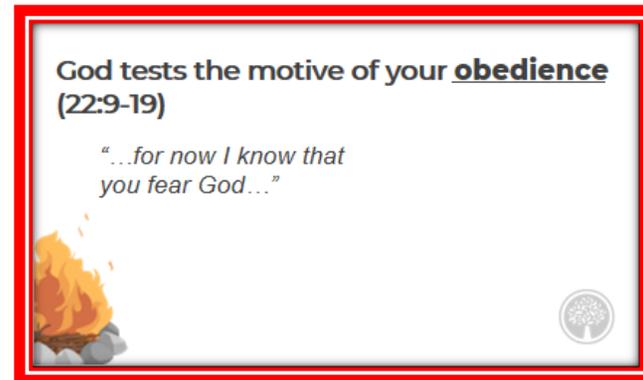
Do you believe **1 Corinthians 10:13**, that *God will never allow you to be tested beyond what you are able to bear, but will make a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.*?

Do you trust God to provide everything you need to please Him at all times?

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<sup>9</sup> Jude 24-25

Our faith in God must evidence a single love, a wholehearted worship, and a confidence in His sufficient provision, since God also,



tests the motive of our obedience.

Look at **verse 9**,

*Then they came to the place of which God had told him; And Abraham built the altar there*

Consider this Rembrandt painting:

### Genesis 22:9-10

Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Abraham's Sacrifice, Rembrandt, 1635



Because here the text really slows down, and becomes a graphic illustration of every heartbeat of Abraham and Isaac in this moment. The text is so descriptive. You can feel the emotion and every word that is said.

*They came to the place of which God had told him;*

There was now no way out. It was time to go through with it.

*And Abraham built the altar there...*

He built many altars before, but never one like this! He built this altar. He put tenderness in it.

He didn't want any excuses, so he had brought the wood along.

*He arranged the wood on the altar.*

*He bound his son*

*Laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.*

And he reached out his hand,

and took his knife, and raised it...

to slay his son.

*But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."*

*He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God,*

*Underline that in your Bible: now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a substitute! As a burnt offering instead of his son.*

*So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide". [Literally, The Lord will see to it!] as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."*

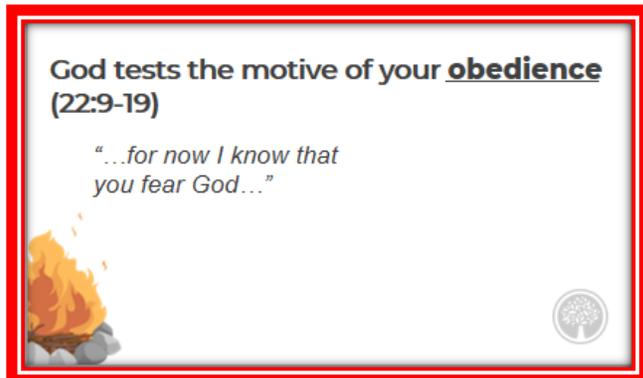
*15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations*

*of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.*"<sup>10</sup>

*19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.*

What motivates such obedience to God from the aged Abraham and the youthful Isaac? What motives both men to such confident submission to God's Word?

Neither Abraham nor Isaac would let anything stand between them and their Covenant-keeping God. God was their dearest treasure!



**Verse 12** says, *for now I know that you fear God...*

It's the fear of the Lord that motivates obedience. It is the fear of the Lord that ultimately motivates us to trust in

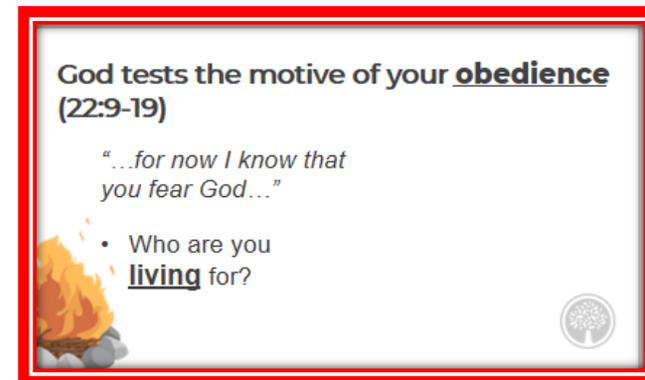
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<sup>10</sup> Notice God here reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant, except He pours on greater blessing than even before. Before it was like the stars of the sky, now it was like the sands of the sea! He expanded every part of this

God. The fear of the Lord is a conscious awareness of God's power and presence that motivates us to obey Him.

Church, God will test the motives for our obedience, and no other obedience can do. Only the obedience which comes from faith in Jesus can please God. For faith always proves itself by action.<sup>11</sup>

So again, ask yourself,



**Who are you living for?** What fears motivate you? For which audience are you living or serving?

Or you could ask, "What do you see are your spiritual rights? What do you believe you are entitled to in your faith?" After all, God...!

promise as an assurance of His faithfulness and grace upon his obedient servant.

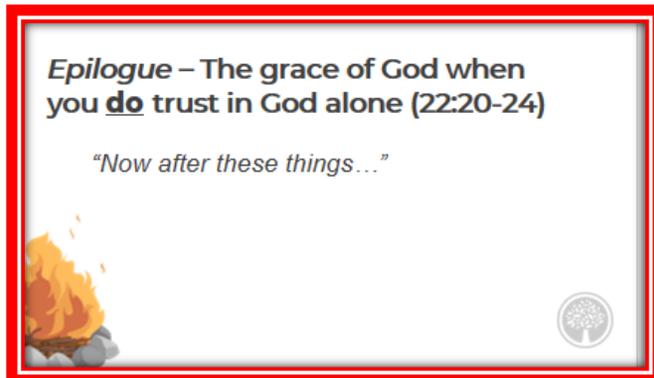
<sup>11</sup> James 2:21-23

We do that sometimes, don't we? We try to bargain with God as if somehow God is in our debt?

Church, we must trust only in God. He alone is worthy of our life. And He's enough.

It's very interesting that because Abraham was willing to put the promise on the line and risk losing it for his love of God, that the promise was actually renewed and strengthened.<sup>12</sup>

Now you would think this is the end of the story: Abraham and Isaac go home, and it's the end, right? Not yet. Look at the,



*Epilogue in verses 20-24.*

*Now after these things...*

*After this test. After God had tested Abraham, and carried Abraham all the way through so that now*

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<sup>12</sup> Matthew 16:25

Abraham knew in a deeper way what it really means to trust in God's provision ... after this had been proven,

It just so happens, that Abraham gets a report from his family some 450 miles away in Mesopotamia! As far as we know, he hasn't heard from his family in 50-60 years.<sup>13</sup>

But if the Abrahamic covenant is going to happen, it's important that Isaac get married, and that he marries another one of God's chosen people...someone from Abraham's extended family.

So here, we see this family genealogy at the end of **chapter 22**, and look at **verse 23**:

*Bethuel has fathered Rebekah.*

God had brought a Rebekah into the world, who would eventually marry Isaac, and further the promised line.

God is a God of grace. A God of blessing. A God of the impossible! O church, don't miss the grace of God for all who do trust in God alone!

After all, do you remember Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane? As He was praying, sweating drops as if of blood, "Father, nevertheless, not my will, but Yours be done." It was right before the cross, it was right before Jesus was going to take my sin, and your sin to the cross, and pay for our sins through His sacrifice.

<sup>13</sup> Genesis 12:4

The soldiers hadn't yet come...his disciples were sleeping around Him. Jesus could've run! He could have called 10,000 angels and chosen not to obey the Father.

But instead, He chose to tread up that dusty path ... just like Isaac did... Jesus too was carrying the wood, just like Isaac was. They were both going to the same place... a hill called Mount Calvary.

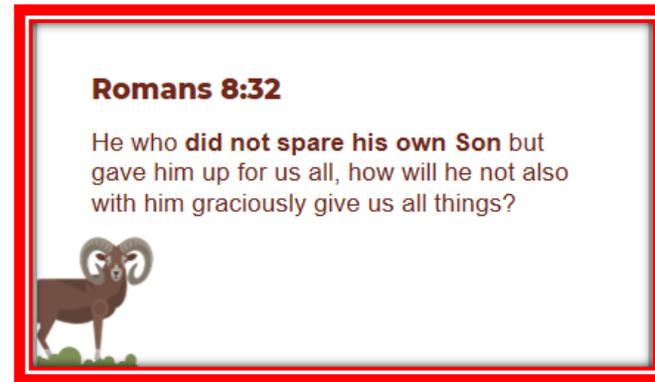
Jesus allowed Himself to be bound to that cross in silence, just like Isaac. But there's one major difference between Jesus and Isaac.

Jesus *was* the lamb!<sup>14</sup>

The knife came down.

Jesus took the wrath of God that was for my sins, and for your sins...all so we could have everlasting life. So that we could worship! So that we could know God and see how beautiful He is! That our God is worthy of everything that we could ever offer Him.

**Romans chapter 8** puts it this way,



*He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?*

O church, do you trust God alone? Come, and taste and see the goodness which God has for those who believe in Him, and Him alone.



Let's pray. **Closing prayer.**

Closing Song – <<It is Well with my Soul>>

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<sup>14</sup> John 1:29

**Benediction**

**Romans 15:4-6** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Romans 15:4-6*

**Many Hands  
Make Light Work.**

Please share a few minutes to stack chairs & ready the Family Center for weekly activities.

*Thank You  
New Castle!*

Making the  
first **2** minutes  
count!

Seek to show  
hospitality ...  
*Romans 12:13b*

*Please show this slide immediately after the conclusion of the Benediction in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> services for 2 minutes; then after 2 minutes, you can transition to other slides, etc. Thank you!*

### **Recommended Resources on Trusting God Alone:**

- Genesis 21:12
- Exodus 16:4
- Deuteronomy 8:2, 16; 13:3; 32:4
- 2 Chronicles 32:31
- Job 1:20-21; 13:15; 23:8-10; 28:28
- Psalm 46:1-2
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Matthew 6:33; 10:37; 16:24-26; 22:37-40
- John 1:29; 3:16
- Romans 8:32; 12:1-2
- Philippians 4:11-14
- Hebrews 11:17-19; 12:3-11
- James 1:2-25, 2:21-23
  
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/god-will-never-never-break-his-promise>
- Brad Bigney sermons on Idolatry - <https://www.graceky.org/sermons/series/gospel-treason/>
- Will Varner sermon on Genesis 22 - <https://www.gracechurch.org/sermons/13105>
  
- Trusting God, Bridges
- Gospel Treason, Bigney
- Living in the Gap between Promise & Reality, Duguid
- More than a Story, Michael (Children's Book)

### **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Compare Genesis 12:1-3 with Abraham's actions in 12:11-13; 15:2-3; 16:2-3; 17:15-18; and 20:2, 11-13. Who should be credited with fulfilling God's promises to Abraham? Discuss how God's mercy is responsible for our own realization of God's promises in our lives as well.
2. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What was Abraham thinking while he was on the way to sacrifice his beloved son of promise?
3. Read Genesis 22:12. Why did God test Abraham in such a deep and profound way? Is it possible to truly love God and refuse to obey His clear commands? (c.f. John 14:15; 1 John 5:3-5)
4. Review Genesis 22. What similarities do you see in this account to Jesus' own sacrificial death on Mount Moriah 2,000 years later? (c.f. John 1:29; 3:16)
5. Share together your answers to the questions in today's sermon outline. Pray for God's cleansing grace and mercy to strengthen each of your love, worship, faith, and obedience to Jesus.