

Genesis 22 New American Standard Bible

The Offering of Isaac

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

³ So Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to ^[b]slaughter his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” ¹³ Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son.

¹⁴ And Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the Lord it will ^[e]be provided.” ¹⁵ Then 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 thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall ^[i]be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived in Beersheba.

²⁰ Now it came about after these things, that Abraham was told, saying, “Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: ²¹ Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel (the father of Aram), ²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel” ²³ and *it* was Bethuel *who* fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother. ²⁴ His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also gave birth to Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls observations and insights

1. There came a day, that day, to test Abraham.
2. Why was it necessary for God to test him?
3. What was God testing Abraham for?
4. There is always a day, that day, the day of the Lord.
5. God called Abraham and answered, is that how God talks to you?
6. Abraham's response was to say 'here I am'. It was a way of him saying to God, I am ready and I am available.
7. God said 'take that son you love, I want you to go on a journey'. There is always a journey to go on with God.
8. God instructs Abraham to offer Abraham up on an altar as an act of worship to Him.
9. Does this look like the God you know? Could you have offered your child up on the altar?
10. For Abraham he obeys and takes along with him two young servants.
11. Can you imagine splitting wood and at the same time contemplating a sacrifice of your son that you love?
12. Abraham leaves the young man and the donkey and takes Isaac and the wood up the mountain to make the offering.
13. He declares to his two servants two revelations of faith, he says 'we will worship and we will return to you'.
14. Abraham prepares the offering and the fire, but how must have Isaac felt knowing he was about to be the sacrifice.
15. Isaac questions his father Abraham, he states 'here is the fire, here is the wood, where is the lamb for the offering?'
16. Did Abraham think God would intervene?
17. Sometimes we don't understand what is happening or what we should do.
18. Abraham's response is always true when he says God will provide.
19. If you were Isaac what would have been a sufficient response from your father?
20. Up till this point of building the fire, Isaac may have suspected, but having now been tied up and put on the altar he is now convinced about what his dad is about to do.
21. Abraham took the knife and was about to kill his son but an angel forcibly intervenes.
22. Why did the angel have to call Abraham twice?
23. The angel instructs Abraham not to do what he is about to do.
24. I wonder how keen Isaac would have been to go on future trips with his dad!

25. The test had satisfied God of Abraham's obedience to trust God and His word.
26. Abraham, you were prepared to lose your future inheritance and obey the voice of God. Are we?
27. God makes provision with a ram for a sacrifice.
28. This story is like a precursor revelation of the cross where God made no last stay of execution.
29. 'God will provide' is the new name for this place. It is where it happened.
30. There is always a day and there is always a place with God.
31. The angel calls from heaven, I wonder if Abraham put on a deaf ear.
32. The angel proclaims Abraham's blessing, for all time on his descendants forever, who come from the line of Abraham.
33. All nations will be blessed through Abraham's seed.
34. This blessing on Abraham came as a direct link to his obedience.
35. Abraham returns to his two young men with his son Isaac intact.
36. I wonder what was going through Isaac's mind on his way back home?
37. God brings upon Abraham's relatives the blessings of many children.