

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

As we have been going through the book of Genesis now for almost four months, I have tried to make the point regarding how everything in the Old Testament points to Jesus.

This is not just a collection of events or a historical account of our origins.

Chapter 22 is a significant chapter because it gives a glimpse of the gospel 2000 years before Jesus Christ died for us on that cross.

Let's pray...

**[Genesis 22:1-14 NKJV] 1 Now it came to pass 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] 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 and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the**

**lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." 6 So**

**Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid [it] on Isaac his son; and**

**he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7**

**But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here**

**I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where [is] the**

**lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for**

**Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. 9 Then**

**they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar**

**there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on**

**the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the**

**knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and**

**said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay**

**your hand on the lad, or 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 lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind [him was] a ram caught in**

**a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a**

**burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place,**

**The-LORD-Will-Provide**; as it is said [to] this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

So in our study last week, we saw God deliver on the promise that He had made to Abraham and Sarah.

Isaac is finally in their arms, he has been circumcised, he has been weaned already – and with the departure of Ishmael, Isaac is probably getting all of the love from Abraham and Sarah.

We really don't know the age of Isaac at the start of chapter 22, all we know is that time has passed from the end of chapter 21.

Many theologians estimate the age of Isaac to be anywhere from his late teenage years to up to his mid-thirties.

For whatever reason, we tend to think of Isaac in this event as a very young boy – that is how he is portrayed in movies and coloring books. However, when we read this chapter in context – it provides clues that Isaac is much older.

**So the chapter starts off with God testing Abraham.**

God tested Abraham – there are two types of tests that we go through in our spiritual walk.

1. The first type of test is one that allows us to grow our faith – these are the types of tests that we have seen Abraham go through up to this point.
  - Leaving his homeland to a land that God promised him. This is definitely a test since he didn't know where he was going? It was going to be a distant land for him.
  - Facing famine - he failed that one because he went to Egypt. He turned to the world for help in time of need instead of turning to God Himself.
  - Allowing Lot to choose what land he was going to utilize was another test and he passed that one. He knew that God was faithful and whatever land he got stuck with - that was the one that God was going to bless.
  - Having a child with Hagar was another time he was tested. Another failure.

- However, Abraham had many smaller victories as he was obedient to God's will regarding circumcision and also when he sent away Hagar and Ishmael – we saw that in last week's study.

2. Second type of test is one that demonstrates where our faith stands.

Since God is all knowing – He knows where we stand.

But through these tests and trials, **we** can have a better understanding where we truly stand.

10 years ago, my oldest daughter suffered a seizure and was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance.

I had been a believer for over 15 years when it happened – however, the trial demonstrated my lack of spiritual maturity back then because I failed to put my trust in the Lord –

We all go through these types of trials...

This is the type of test that Abraham is going to go through here in chapter 22.

**Abraham is going to find out where his faith in the Lord stands through this test.**

Let's take a closer look at the test –

Here in verse two, God tells Abraham, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac”

God referred to Isaac as “your only son” (22:2a).

But – Abraham has another son right? We read about him last week – it is Ishmael.

Do you remember last week when I mentioned that the name of Ishmael is not even mentioned in chapter 21?

He was referred to as the lad or the son of the bondservant -

You see, God does not recognize that which is produced by our fleshly efforts.

Ishmael was produced by the fleshly efforts of Abraham and Sarah.

We must remember that God must be the Builder of everything that we do (Psalm 127:1)

**[Psalm 127:1 NKJV] 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.**

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3 that on our judgment day all of our works are going to be tested – the works of the flesh will burn, only the works of the spirit will endure.

God doesn't recognize the works of the flesh and that is what Ishmael was.

In verse two, God continues to say about Isaac – **whom you love**.

This is very notable?

Why is this notable?

This is the first time in scripture that the word "love" is used.

It's interesting that the first mention of "love" in the Bible is not between a husband and wife, a mother and daughter or even a mother and son, but between the love of a father and son.

Do you guys know the first time "love" is used in the New Testament???

**[Matthew 3:17 NKJV] 17 And suddenly a voice [came] from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

In the gospel of Mark - "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

In the gospel of Luke - "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

In the Gospel of John -

**[John 3:16 NKJV] 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

There's a shift from the beloved Son to the world that God loves so much that He gives His beloved Son as a sacrifice ...

In the Old Testament, we have many memorable chapters that speak about the Messiah having to suffer.

Psalms 22 prophesies about the way Jesus was going to die –how they were going to pierce his hands and feet.

Isaiah 53 speaks about how Jesus was going to suffer, how He was going to be rejected.

However, this event is the only place in scripture that gives us a small glimpse of what God the Father went through when He sent His only begotten Son to die for us.



God tells Abraham to offer up his son in a sacrifice.

The Hebrew word for offering here in our text in verse 2 means to “lift up”

In the gospel of John, Jesus speaks these words regarding His death.

**[John 12:32-33 NKJV] 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all [peoples] to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.**

God doesn't even tell Abraham where it's going to take place – God simply told him, I will tell you what mountain top to do it on. All he knew is that it was in the land of Moriah.

Many people believe that this takes place on the exact place where Jesus was crucified.

That Mt. Moriah is Mt. Calvary.

So how does Abraham respond? With complete obedience.

Verse three tells us that he got up early and packed a few things and started chopping wood for the offering.

Abraham is anywhere between 120-130 years old now and he is chopping wood for the offering.

Now, the scriptures do not reveal to us what was going through Abraham's mind in all of this – the fear and anguish that he is about to lose his son.

It is hard to imagine what was going through his mind –

None of this is mentioned in scripture – why?

Many times we put our feeling ahead of God's will.

Sometimes when I speak to someone and they know that scripturally they are in error – the person will say, well I feel that ... and then they will finish it up with – well God knows my heart.

God only cares whether or not we will be obedient to His word or not?

So Abraham and Isaac along with two of his young men head to the land of Moriah – just like God had said.

And on the third day, Abraham sees the mountain where the offering is going to take place and commands the young men to stay put with the donkey,

And he tells the young men, the lad and I will go yonder and **we will come back to you.**

“we will come back to you” – is Abraham’s declaration of faith in the promise of God. He was about to go up to the mountain to offer up Isaac – yet he states that we will come back to you.

Turn with me to the book of Hebrews,

**[Hebrews 11:17-19 NKJV] 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten [son], 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God [was] able to raise [him] up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.**

Even though it had never happened before, Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead if he were to kill him on Mt. Moriah.

In verse six, we have Abraham placing the wood on the shoulders of Isaac – in the same manner that Jesus had to carry the wooden cross which He would be nailed to.

Abraham carries the fire and the knife.

He didn't purposely forget it, this further shows his obedience to the will of God.

However in verses 7 and 8 **Isaac notices that there is something missing** – we got fire, we got the wood but where is the lamb for the offering?

Abraham's response was that God would provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.

And we see this in the gospel of John,

**[John 1:29 NKJV] 29 The next day John (john the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

So they get to the place where they are supposed to build the altar and they build it and lay the wood down, Abraham ties up Isaac and lays him on the wood.

Remember Isaac is at least a teenager –he was old enough to carry the wood, he was old enough to question what was going on – he could have easily taken on his old man. But he doesn't.

Here we see the obedience of Isaac to the will of his father – in the same way that Jesus was obedient to the will of His father.

**[John 10:18 NKJV] 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."**

So everything is ready for the sacrifice, Abraham gets the knife and the Angel of the Lord stops him.

Now, the Angel of the Lord is of course Jesus Christ in the Old Testament – So Jesus Christ is present in the picture we have of what God the Father does with Him on mount Calvary.

And verse 13 tells us that God provided a ram for the offering there. This ram is important because it is a picture of the substitutionary sacrifice.

The ram took the place of Isaac in the same way that Jesus Christ took our place.

Notice in verse 14, what Abraham names the place – The Lord Will Provide, Jehovah jireh.

God has provided and will continue to provide all of our needs – whenever we doubt, all we have to do is to go to Mt Moriah, to Calvary and lift our eyes.

**[Genesis 22:15-24 NKJV] 15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only [son]-- 17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which [is] on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba. 20 Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, "Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: 21 "Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, 22 "Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." 23 And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's**

brother. 24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah.

Because of Abraham's obedience, God once again reminds him of the promise.

The significance of the names at the end of the chapter is that we are introduced to Rebekah who later on will be the one who marries Isaac.

**[Genesis 23:1-20 NKJV] 1 Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; [these were] the years of the life of Sarah. 2 So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that [is], Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. 3 Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, 4 "I [am] a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." 5 And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, 6 "Hear us, my lord: You [are] a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead." 7 Then Abraham stood up and bowed himself to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. 8 And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and meet with Ephron the son of Zohar**

for me, 9 "that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which [is] at the end of his field. Let him give it to me at the full price, as property for a burial place among you." 10 Now Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth, all who entered at the gate of his city, saying, 11 "No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field and the cave that [is] in it; I give it to you in the presence of the sons of my people. I give it to you. Bury your dead!" 12 Then Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land; 13 and he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you [will give it], please hear me. I will give you money for the field; take [it] from me and I will bury my dead there." 14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 15 "My lord, listen to me; the land [is worth] four hundred shekels of silver. What [is] that between you and me? So bury your dead." 16 And Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out the silver for Ephron which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, currency of the merchants. 17 So the field of Ephron which [was] in Machpelah, which [was] before Mamre, the field and the cave which [was] in it, and all the trees that [were] in the field, which [were] within all the surrounding borders, were deeded 18 to Abraham as a possession in the



**presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that [is], Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 So the field and the cave that [is] in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place.**

Now, in chapter 23, Sarah dies. She was 127 years old.

Sarah is the only woman whose age is recorded in scripture upon her death.

I don't want to spend much time on this chapter –

I want to point out that despite God's promise to Abraham about all the land that was going to be his. The only plot of land that Abraham ever owned was the cave in which he buried Sarah.

Abraham knew there was something greater than this life. And in the book of Hebrews it tells us that he lived in tents waiting for the city whose foundations were built by God.

He was seeking the eternal.

Let's pray...