



Lesson 15

GOD TESTS ABRAHAM'S FAITH

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 22:1-19
- **Setting:** circa 1900 B.C. near Mt. Moriah
- **Characters:** God, Abram, & Isaac
- **Plot:** God tests Abraham's faith and provides a powerful picture of His plan of Redemption.
- **Key words:** "Thy son, thine _____ son" (vv 2, 12, 16)
- **Climax:** *Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.*

Proving Faith

- 1) (vv 1-2) God had promised Abraham a son through his wife Sarah; _____ was that promised child.
 - a) Although Abraham had other sons, Isaac was his only son in the sense that he was the only one that mattered in relation to God's covenant with Abraham. Isaac was the only "_____ " child.
 - b) The term "only _____ son" when applied to Isaac is a reference to Isaac's inherit right to all his father's estate. In the same way, Jesus is the "only begotten son" of God – that is, all that is the Father's is the Son's. Jesus is the ultimate Promised Child.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son

- 2) The Bible says God tempted Abraham, but it should be understood to mean "_____." "Tempt" and "test" are used interchangeably in the King James.
- 3) (vv 3-8) God's request sounds unreasonable and cruel, but we understand now that God was testing the faith of Abraham. We see the strength of Abraham's faith when:
 - a) He said to the young servants, "Abide ye here ... I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you." Abraham believed that he and Isaac would _____. (22:5)
 - b) He said to Isaac, "God will provide himself a _____ for a burnt offering."
 - c) Hebrews 11:19 says, "Accounting that God was able to _____, even from the dead..."

Portraying Redemption

- 4) The story of the offering up of Isaac powerfully portrays God's plan of redemption:
- a) The location of the sacrifice was a mountain in Moriah, the future site of _____ Temple. (2 Chron. 3:1)
 - b) Notice how Abraham pictures the Father:
 - i) Both had a beloved son (Matt. 3:17) that was born _____ (Luke 1:35)
 - ii) Both had sons willing to be _____ (John 10:18)
 - iii) Both _____ their sons (John 3:16)
 - iv) Both received their sons back from the _____ (Isaac figuratively; Heb. 11:19)
- 5) Not only did Isaac portray the Savior, but so did the ram caught in the thicket. The ram was offered "in the stead of" Isaac, showing the _____ death of Jesus who died instead of us. (cf 2 Cor. 5:21)
- 6) (v 14) Abraham called the place Jehovah-jireh, meaning "God will _____." Often, this title of God is used to emphasize God's provision of material blessings, but the biblical focus is that God has provided for our salvation.

Application

- 7) It is not unusual for God to test the faith of his people. He does not do this because he does not know our hearts, but so that our faith would grow, and so that others might see faith in action. In this way, our works _____ us in the sight of men.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Answer Key

"Key word(s): "only"
1. Isaac; a) promised; b) begotten
2. tested

3. a) both return; b) lamb; c) raise him up
4. a) Solomon's; b) i) miraculously; ii) offered; iii) offered up; iv) dead

5. substitutionary
6. provide
7. justify