

Genesis 22: Faith.

I. Genesis 1-8.

This was not so much a test to *produce* faith, as it was a test to *reveal* faith. God built Abraham piece by piece, year by year, into a man of faith. Ishmael was put away from Abraham's family and Isaac was the only son of promise.

Isaac was supposed to be killed and burnt. There was a specific *place* God commanded Abraham to go, a particular spot where this would happen. God is carefully directing each detail. Abraham obeyed; firewood, knife, three day journey... "Where is the sacrifice? ... "God will provide for himself a Lamb." In just the last chapter, God asked Abraham to "give up" Ishmael. All through the journey Isaac was as good as dead to Abraham.

II. 9-14.

Abraham is obedient and trusting. The region of Moriah is associated with Mount Moriah, which is modern-day Jerusalem ([2 Chronicles 3:1](#)).

Abraham took the knife up the hill. He didn't "forget" it. "That knife was cutting into his own heart all the while, yet he took it. Unbelief would have left the knife at home, but genuine faith takes it." (Spurgeon).

At this time, Abraham was more than 100 years old, and Isaac would have been able to get away had he chosen to. Yet he submits to his father perfectly. In remembering Abraham's faith, we should never forget Isaac's faith. Jewish commentators think Isaac was in his thirties at the time of this event. Isaac is doing this knowingly and willingly.

When God asked Abraham for the ultimate demonstration of love and commitment, He asked for Abraham's son. When the Father wanted to show us the ultimate demonstration of His love and commitment to us, He gave us His Son. We can say to the LORD, "Now I know that You love me, seeing You have not withheld Your Son, Your only Son from me."

Abraham wasn't willing to offer Isaac, he offered the Ram. Willingness in God's eyes was as good as the action.

The LORD Will Provide (Jehovah Jireh); in this mount, it shall be provided.

Abraham didn't name the place in reference to what he went through. He didn't name it "trial hill or my faith hill". Instead, he named the hill in reference to what God

did; he named it "provision hill." He named it knowing God would provide the ultimate sacrifice for salvation on that hill someday.

He had no precedent (no one in the Bible had yet been raised from the dead), but Abraham knew God was able. God could do it!

We will go and worship - "to bow down" and come back. This is the first mention of **love** and **worship** in the Bible, and it is the love between father and son, and connected with the idea of the sacrificial offering of the son.

In 20-21 Isaac a type (picture) of Jesus:

- Both were the promised sons.
- Both were born after a period of delay.
- Both mothers were assured by God's omnipotence (Gen 18:13-14; Luke 1:34, 37).
- Both were named before birth.
- Both births were miraculous.
- Both births were accompanied by joy (Genesis 21:6; Luke 1:46-47; 2:10-11).

Isaac's picture of Jesus becomes even clearer:

- Both were loved by their father.
- Both offered themselves willingly.
- Both carried wood up the hill of their sacrifice.
- Both were sacrificed on the same hill.
- Both were delivered from death on the third day.

III. 15-19 - God reconfirms His promise to Abraham in light of his faith.

Imagine how happy Abraham was after passing this test of trust. 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.

Faith is willful obedience.

Faith is willful sacrifice.

Faith is an expression of our love and worship of God.

Proverbs 3:5-8 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

John 14:15 – If you love me, keep My commandments.

Hebrews 11:1-3 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

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

James 2:17-18 - Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Mark 9:24 - Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"