

"Testing Faith"

Genesis 22:1-19

Introduction: One purpose of faith is to rest in God's power and God's promises; therefore faith must be tested; and God tests often.

Human Sacrifice: Leviticus 20:2-5; Ezekiel 20:25-26

Genesis 22 - Testing Faith - When God speaks Abraham is already listening and that reminds me that I can tune my heart and ears to hear the Lord.

Beersheba to Moriah - 1b-6 - (Abraham & Obedience)

True Worship

True worship is God centered and anything that takes him from that position is man-centered and not true worship. True worship always puts God in his rightful place; true worship declares the worth of God and calls us to make all other things worthless by comparison.

Climb up Moriah - (7-8) - (Abraham & Isaac)

God's Provision

The Hebrew that translates "God will provide" is Jehovah-Jireh, and is a transliteration of a Hebrew verb that simply means "to see". The best way to understand this is that seeing is 'foreseeing' or 'provisioning' and points to God's provision for all who believe by faith.

Moriah to Beersheba - (9-19a) - (God & Isaac's Faith)

A Father's Faith

Two things; First, Abraham seems to have lived out his faith honestly and openly before his family and his son had a front row seat. Second, as Abraham lives out his faith God makes the effort of revealing himself to Isaac such that it changes Isaac's life permanently.

Conclusion: The appearance of the ram, caught in the thicket points to a substitutionary atonement and directs us to the system that God established for his people Israel. 2 Corinthians 5:21 explains it simply.

Verses 15-16 - Obedience is always the right response to God and prompt obedience is the witness of a mature faith.

Romans 8:28-34 is considered by scholars as "the chief allusion to Genesis 22" (Mathews 300). Isaac will not do, we need a perfect sacrifice, and Jesus Christ is the only perfect sacrifice. (Acts 4:26-28)

At the heart of true worship is a healthy fear of God with love, adoration and reverence for his beauty and power.

This story anticipates the words of Samuel to King Saul in 1 Samuel 15:22-23. Obedience is essential to life with God and the life of faith.