

Torah Studies

God Tests Abraham
Genesis 22 – 23

Genesis: In the Beginning



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Torah Studies

Revival in God's Word

- Psalm 119:37-40 (NKJV)

37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,
And revive me in Your way.

38 Establish Your word to Your servant,
Who is devoted to fearing You.

Torah Studies

Revival in God's Word

- Psalm 119:37-40 (NKJV)

39 Turn away my reproach which I dread,

For Your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for Your precepts;

Revive me in Your righteousness.

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Introduction

- Previously in Genesis:

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Introduction

- Previously in Genesis:
- In Genesis 20-21: we looked at the birth of Isaac.
- We also saw the separation of Ishmael and his mother Hagar from Abraham and Sarah.
- This happened once Isaac was weaned and Ishmael was nearly grown.

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Introduction

- In today's section, God will challenge Abraham to sacrifice his promised son.
- We will see how his obedience provides an example for people of faith for generations to come.

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Introduction

- A note on biblical *types*:
- A biblical **type** is a person, thing or event in the Old Testament that points to a similar fulfillment or *antitype* in the New Testament.

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Introduction

Examples:

1. The Passover lamb foreshadows Jesus.
2. The Old Testament High Priest foreshadows Christ as our High Priest.
3. The original marriage of man and woman (Adam and Eve) looks forward to Christ and the church.

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Outline

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Genesis 22 – 23

Outline

- I. Abraham's Obedience 22:1-24
- II. Sarah's Death and Burial 23:1-20

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:1 God has been working on Abraham.
- All the waiting, the challenges to his faith, were leading up to this moment.
- Now God will reveal to Abraham and to us the level of faith that Abraham has reached.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:1 Here I am = *Hinneni*
- This is a one-word response in Hebrew.
- This is its first use in Scripture.
- Its basic form *Hinneh* is a pointing expression such as “Behold” or “Voilà.”

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:1 Here I am = *Hinneni*
- *Hinneh* combined with the first-person “I” (*ani*) indicates attentiveness, a readiness to listen, to obey.
- More on this later.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:2 Isaac is called “**your only son**”
- Our works of the flesh are meaningless to God.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:2 Moriah
- There is only one other place where the name Moriah is used in Scripture.
- Later – up to 1000 years later – this is where Solomon would build the Temple.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 2 Chronicles 3:1

Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:2 Fast forward another 1000 years.
- This is also the area where Jesus died.
- Figuratively, in Abraham's eyes, Isaac died to him at this point.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:3 Early in the morning
- Abraham did not procrastinate regarding his obedience.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:4 On the third day This is the day Isaac figuratively comes back to life for Abraham.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:5 I and the boy will ... come again to you.
- These words express the faith of Abraham.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:6 Abraham took the wood ... and laid it on Isaac his son.
- Think of Jesus and His own cross.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- John 19:17

16 ... So they took Jesus, 17 and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:7 **Here I am** This is a slightly different word.
- Still, Abraham was attentive to the boy.
- **Where is the lamb?**
- 22:8 **God will provide for himself the lamb**
- Abraham was sure that somehow God would provide a sacrifice.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:8 Who can say what exactly he was thinking?
- With hindsight we can see the ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament.
- John 1:19

The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- Once again Abraham responds with *Hinneni*.
- 22:10-11

10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to 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.”

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:12 The ram was killed instead of Isaac.
- This illustrates the idea of substitution.
- Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:14 “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”
- On that very mountain, perhaps 2000 years later, Jesus our sacrifice was provided for us by God Himself.
- It’s been almost 2000 years since then.
- What do you think God’s planning for us now?

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:15-18 God reaffirms His covenant with Abraham – for the fifth time!
- See also Genesis 12, 13, 15 & 17.

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:19 Isaac now disappears from the story.
- He goes missing until he comes out to meet his bride toward the end of Genesis 24.
- Just saying 😊

I. Abraham's Obedience

22:1-24

- 22:23 (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.)
- More on Rebekah in Chapter 24.

II. Sarah's Death and Burial

23:1-20

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23:1-20

- 23:1 Sarah lived 127 years.
- Sarah is the only woman in the Bible to have her lifespan recorded like this.

II. Sarah's Death and Burial

23:1-20

- 23:2 Kiriath-arba or Hebron
- This city continued to be important all through the Old Testament.
- It was conquered by Caleb when the Israelites returned from Egypt.
- It was where David began his reign as king in Judah.

II. Sarah's Death and Burial

23:1-20

- This plot of land is the only recorded part of the land of Canaan that we know for sure Abraham owned.
- In **Genesis 25**, Isaac and Ishmael will bury Abraham here in the same spot.

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Conclusion

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- “Here I am” – Attentiveness to God’s voice
- Are we ready to listen, to obey, as Abraham was?

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- “Here I am” – Attentiveness to God’s voice
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- Exodus 3:3-4

3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Conclusion

- “Here I am” – Attentiveness to God’s voice
- Are we ready to listen, to obey, as Abraham was?
- Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

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Conclusion

- Are we ready to sacrifice that which is most precious to us – as Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac?

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Conclusion

- Are we ready to sacrifice that which is most precious to us – as Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac?
- I'm afraid that sometimes we figuratively sacrifice the injured lamb or the sick bull.
- We give God things that we can happily do without.
- Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac is a special kind of obedience and revealed a very deep faith.

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Conclusion

- Abraham illustrates that we need to act out our faith.

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Conclusion

- Abraham illustrates that we need to act out our faith.
- Hebrews 11:17-19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ...

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Conclusion

- Abraham illustrates that we need to act out our faith.
- Hebrews 11:17-19

... 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

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Conclusion

- Abraham illustrates that we need to act out our faith.
- James 2:20-23

20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works ...

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Conclusion

- Abraham illustrates that we need to act out our faith.
- James 2:20-23

... 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

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Conclusion

- Jesus knew that we would need to express our faith by means of actions.

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Conclusion

- Jesus knew that we would need to express our faith by means of actions.
- Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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Conclusion

- Jesus knew that we would need to express our faith by means of actions.
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ...

God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22 – 23

Conclusion

- Jesus knew that we would need to express our faith by means of actions.
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

... 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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Next Week:
A Wife for Isaac
Genesis 24