

**Introduction:** People will never fully understand God because He is the infinite Creator and we are His finite creation. More than this, His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:6-13); but, we have a human tendency to bring Him down to us, rather than let Him take us up to Himself. \*\*\* One truth about God: He always does what he says. However, the fulfillment of His Word may take twenty five years (Genesis 12:4; 21:5); four thousand years (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4-5), or longer. \*\*\* And, He puts people through tests and trials; but, He also acts so His faithful ones pass the tests and grow in knowledge of Him and intimacy with Him (1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Romans 8:28-30). \*\*\* He also sees everything, even before it happens. Then He works in the lives of His people so they will eventually have His image fully restored in them (1 John 3:2). \*\*\* Today's account of the testing of Abraham's and Isaac's faith is one of the golden chapters in the history of God's people. It helps to explain everything from the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8-17) to the city of God (Revelation 21:1-5). At the heart of everything is The Savior King: Yeshua Ha-Meshiakh: Jesus Christ. \*\*\* It takes place in Beersheba (well of seven) some forty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem and thirty miles due west of the southern tip of the Dead Sea. Then it moves to Mount Moriah in Jerusalem where the Temple was eventually built (1 Chronicles 3:1). Then, some two thousand years after Abraham, the word from John's Gospel took place in Bethany beyond Jordan, east of the Jordan River. No one knows for sure where this was, but it is likely it was some twenty miles east of Jerusalem. \*\*\* The people in these places are, first of all, The Covenant God Yahweh, Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, two young men, THE Angel of Yahweh (Genesis 16:7-11; Judges 6:11-24, and more), John the Baptizer and Jesus. \*\*\* We are ready to enter into what happened to these people in these places. We do this so we may know of God better. And, most of all, to learn from what these people did, so we may both know and do God's will for us. )

**I. The son whom Yahweh spoke to Abraham about is born to Sarah in her old age and some thirty five years later  
Yahweh tests Abraham concerning Isaac. (Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-5)**

- A. Yahweh did for Sarah as He spoke, she conceived and bore a son to Abraham when he was one hundred years old. (*Genesis 21:1-3*)
1. Yahweh visited Sarah, as He had said, then Yahweh did to Sarah as He had spoken: she will conceive and she will bear to Abraham a son in his old age at the appointed time which God had spoken to him. (*Verses 1-2*)  
**Spoke:** The word was first spoken to Abraham some twenty five years before this and reaffirmed a year before this (Genesis 12:1-5; 15:12-21; 18:1-15).  
**Application:** May we all be willing to wait for God's Word as long as He takes to fulfill it.  
**Old Age:** Abraham is now one hundred years old and Sarah is ninety (Genesis 17:15; 21:5)
  2. Then Abraham called the name of his son having been born to him, whom Sarah bore to him: Isaac (laugh). (*Verse 3*)  
**Yitzkhaq:** Literally, the name means 'he will laugh', and reflects Sarah's incredulity that she would nurse children at her age (Genesis 21:7).
- B. Sometime later Yahweh tested Abraham by commanding him to offer his only son whom he loved as a burnt offering. (*Genesis 22:1-5*)
1. Then it was, after these things, God tested Abraham, and He said to him, 'Abraham', and he said, 'Behold! me'; and He said, 'Take now your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and you will offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will say to you'. (*Verses 1-2*)  
**Behold! me:** Abraham responded to God's call of him by name by saying: Here I am, see me, tell me what to do for you.  
**Only:** In calling Isaac Abraham's only son, God downplays Ishmael (Genesis 16; Galatians 4:21-31).  
**Love:** Abraham loved Isaac because he was the son born to Sarah, according to God's Word.  
**Burnt offering:** A burnt offering was totally consumed by fire and turned to ashes (Leviticus 1). This is the extreme test of Abraham's obedient faith in The Covenant God, Yahweh!
  2. Then Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his male donkey, then he took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac, then he divided wood for the burnt offering, and he went to the place which God told him; in the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, then he saw the place far off. (*Verses 3-4*)  
**Obedied:** As morning was breaking, Abraham began to obey God's command. Just after what we heard read, Yahweh spoke through THE Angel of Yahweh to commend Abraham for acting on what he heard (verses 15-18).  
**Third day:** The significance of the third day to what we heard of Jesus from John the Baptizer is that after three days, Abraham received Isaac back alive,
  3. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Abide here with the male donkey and I and the young man will go yonder, and we will worship, and we will come again to you. (*Verse 5*)  
**Young man:** The word for young man is used for men up to their mid-thirties.  
**Worship:** The word for worship is literally to bow down, but Abraham knows he has been asked to worship with Isaac as the burnt offering.  
**Return:** Abraham shows amazing faith by saying he will return with his son. The author of Hebrews tells us that he considered God would raise Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19).

**II. Abraham and Isaac walk to the mountain together, Abraham says God will provide a lamb, and as Abraham draws the knife THE Angel of Yahweh stops him. (Genesis 22:6-14; John 1:29)**

- A. As they walked together, Isaac asked about the lamb and Abraham said God will provide; still, he bound Isaac and took a knife in his hand. (*Verses 6-10*)
1. Then Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and put it on Isaac his son, then he took in his hand the fire and the knife, then they went – both of them together, and Isaac said to Abraham, 'My father', and he said, 'Behold! me my son', and he said, 'Behold! the fire and the wood, but where is the male lamb for the burnt offering?' (*Verses 6-7*)  
**Wood on Yitzkhaq:** Isaac carrying the wood of the burnt offering can be compared to Jesus carrying His Cross (John 19:17).  
**Where is the Lamb?:** Isaac wonders why his father is not bringing a male lamb for the burnt offering.

2. Then Abraham said, 'God will see to Himself the male lamb for the burnt offering my son'; then they went on both of them together. (*Verse 8*)

**God will 'see':** When The One who IS both strength and compassion sees, He will provide. God sees Abraham willing to obey Him, even at the cost of the son God gave him according to His Word.

**God provides for those with faith to obey at any cost**

**Walk on together:** They walk on together, indicating Isaac trusts his father as Abraham trusts God.

3. When they came to the place which God had told him, Abraham built there an altar, then he arrayed the wood, then he bound Isaac his son and put him on the altar on the wood; and then Abraham put forth his hand and he took the knife to slay his son ... (*Verses 9-10*)

**Abraham built an altar:** When Abraham put Yitzkhaq on the altar his son had to believe what he said and also trust God. Abraham did not have strength to overpower his son who was in his physical prime.

**Abraham took a knife:** Then Abraham took the knife and stretched out his hand toward his son to slay him ... could he do it?

- B. Then THE Angel of Yahweh called from heaven, commanded Abraham to stop because he feared Yahweh, and Abraham sacrificed a ram caught in a thicket. (*Genesis 22:11-14; John 1:29*)

1. But THE Angel of Yahweh called to Him from heaven, and he said, 'Abraham, Abraham'; and he said, 'Behold! me'. (*Verse 11*)

**THE Angel of Yahweh:** Many Bible students and commentators have made a strong case that THE Angel of Yahweh is Jesus Christ before He took on human flesh. This makes sense as He spoke for Yahweh, had His Name (Wonderful) and received worship (Exodus 3:1-4; Judges 13:13-21).

**Abraham-twice:** He calls Abraham by name twice, indicating Abraham must listen to Him.

**Reply:** As when he was commanded to sacrifice his only son whom he loved, Abraham again says: here I am, see me, tell me what to do for you.

2. Then he said, 'You will not lay your hand on the young man and you will not do to him anything, because now I have known you are fearing God and you have not withheld your only son from Me'. (*Verse 12*)

**Stop:** Jesus tells Abraham (John 8:54-59) to stop where he is and not go through with offering his son.

**Fear God:** This is because he has a strong reverential fear of God as the basis for his obedient faith.

**Application:** We must know, as Abraham did, God does what He says for us so we are faithful to Him.

**Yahweh did NOT withhold:** Also remember that all four Gospels tell us that God freely gave His only Son whom He loved to die for our sins.

3. Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and Behold! a ram behind him caught in a thicket by his horns; then Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. (*Verse 13*)

**Look and Behold! ram:** This is how God provided for Abraham with a ram caught in a thicket.

**Burnt offering in place of Yitzakh:** Abraham offered up the lamb, provided for him by God, in place of his son. Jesus said Abraham's faith gave him obedient faith in His Wonderful Father.

**God provides for those with faith to obey at any cost**

**God's Son totally consumed on Cross:** However, in contrast to Abraham, God offered His Son to be totally consumed on The Cross as a burnt offering. We must all thank God that He always does more than He requires of His people.

4. The next day, John is seeing Jesus coming to him and he is saying, 'Look! The male Lamb of God who is taking up the sin of the world. (*John 1:29*)

**Lamb of God:** Jesus fulfills the ram of the burnt offering that was offered in place of Isaac some two thousand years before He came to earth.

**Take away sin:** His total sacrificial death on The Cross takes away the sin of all who turn from themselves to Him, confess their sins to God, and receive His death for them by grace by faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).

**Application:** Because Jesus suffered for us, may we find joy and peace in knowing that trials and tests are designed by the loving God to fully restore His image in us through what Jesus did on the Cross.

**Rose from dead:** The on the third day (much like Yitzkhaq) He rose from the dead to become the hope of life after death for all who turn to Him in faith. Because He lives, we can live too.

**Jesus proved God can raise the dead**

5. Then Abraham called the name of that place 'Yahweh will see (Yahweh Yireh)' of which it has been said to this day, 'On the mount of Yahweh it will be seen'. (*Verse 14*)

**Yahweh will see:** First Yahweh provided through Temple worship on Mount Moriah. Now He will provide for all who humbly obey Him in faith, and accept that trials and tests are necessary for them to grow in faith.

May we be among those with humble obedient faith.

**God provides for those with faith to obey at any cost**

**Conclusion:** The son about whom Yahweh spoke to Abraham is born to Sarah in her old age. Then, some thirty five years later Yahweh tests Abraham concerning his only son whom he loves, Isaac. As they walk to Mount Moriah to worship with a burnt offering, Isaac asks his father where the lamb of sacrifice is, and Abraham replies, 'God will see to it'. Just before Abraham puts the knife in Isaac, THE Angel of Yahweh stops him because he has shown reverent fear of Yahweh. Then Abraham sacrifices a ram. Two thousand years later God gave His Son over to death as The Lamb who takes away our sin.

**God provides for those with faith to obey at any cost**