



When Faith is Tested

(Genesis 22:1-24)

"A faith that can't be tested, can't be trusted."¹

1. The **Test** He Encountered (22:1-2)

- God tests our faith, but He doesn't tempt us. "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone" (James 1:13).

Satan's tempts us to bring out the worst in us. God tests us to bring out the best in us.

Temptation to sin is sent by the devil to cause us to stumble. Tests are sent by God to cause you to stand.

Satan's temptations are meant for your misery. God's tests are meant for your maturity.

Satan wants temptations to defeat you. God wants them to develop you!

- Why would God demand this? Well, the heathens around him sacrificed their children to the God of fire (Molech). They sacrificed their children to show their love to their pagan god. It could have been that God was saying 'all right, Abraham, I want to see if you really love Me as much as the pagans love their gods'.
- Could it be that Abraham and Sarah loved Isaac too much? Abraham should love his son, but not more than God. **Matthew 10:37 - He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.** 1 John 5:21 (The Living Bible) reads, "Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts."

Abraham's test question: Do you love the gift more than the Giver?

Today's test question: Is there anything in your life that you love more than Jesus?

2. The **Trial** He Endured (22:3-10)

- "Faith is not believing in spite of evidence; faith is obeying in spite of consequence."²

¹ First time I heard this was from Adrian Rogers, but I do not know its original source.

² Adrian Rogers, "The Testing of Your Faith," (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Ge 22:1-14.

- God honors instant obedience. **Psalm 119:60** says, “I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.”
- Charles Stanley shares this principle: “Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.” His grandfather once told him, “If God tells you to run your head through a brick wall, you start running and trust God to make a hole.”
- **Verse 5** says, “And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.’”
- **Hebrews 11:17-19** – Abraham expected God to raise Isaac back from the dead! “Offered”, which is a perfect verb, means it’s something that happened in the past. He had **already** offered.
- **Job 13:15**, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

3. The **Triumph** He Enjoyed (**22:11-19**)

- “At the right moment and not before (**Psalm 107:27-28**), God interposed and stayed Abraham’s hand. By this action God bore unmistakable testimony to the error of the heathen as to human sacrifices... God could not have given a better object lesson as to the sin of sacrificing our offspring with the thought that it would be pleasing to Him.”³
- The root word of “Jireh” means “to see” and the compound connection means “to provide”. How? Similar to our English word “provision”, which compounds two Latin words “to see beforehand” or “to see ahead of time”. God anticipated the need for a ram met the need at the right time. While Abraham and Isaac walked up one side of the mountain, God was leading a ram to go up the other side at just the right time. God’s vision leads to his provision.

EXTRA: Isaac as a Biblical **Type**, Predicting Christ

- **Mount Moriah – Solomon’s Temple – Today’s Dome of the Rock in Israel - 2 Chronicles 3:1** – “Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah...”
- Moriah, the site of Abraham’s thwarted attempt to sacrifice his son, has been traditionally associated with the temple mount in Jerusalem. Today Mount Moriah is occupied by a Muslim shrine called the Dome of the Rock. Jesus, whom John the Baptist called “the Lamb of God,” is thought to have been crucified just a quarter mile away from Mount Moriah.
- **Ways Isaac was a type of Christ:** Both had a birth that was predicted. Both were born at a precise time (**Gal. 4:4**). Both were supernaturally conceived (**Isaiah 7:14**). Both were named by God. Both were offered in sacrifice. Both were received back through resurrection. Both have blessed the world.
- In **John 8:56**, Jesus said, “Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad.”

³ W.H. Griffith Thomas, *Genesis: A Devotional Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1953), 197.