

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

13. The trial of Abraham's faith

An outline of the Book of Genesis *

* Approximate chapter divisions only

Genesis 1 to 11



Creation Genesis 1 to 2	The Fall Genesis 3	Before the Flood Genesis 4 to 5	The Flood Genesis 6 to 8	After the Flood Genesis 9 to 11
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Genesis 12 to 50



Abraham Genesis 12 to 23	Isaac Genesis 24 to 27	Jacob Genesis 28 to 36	Joseph Genesis 37 to 50
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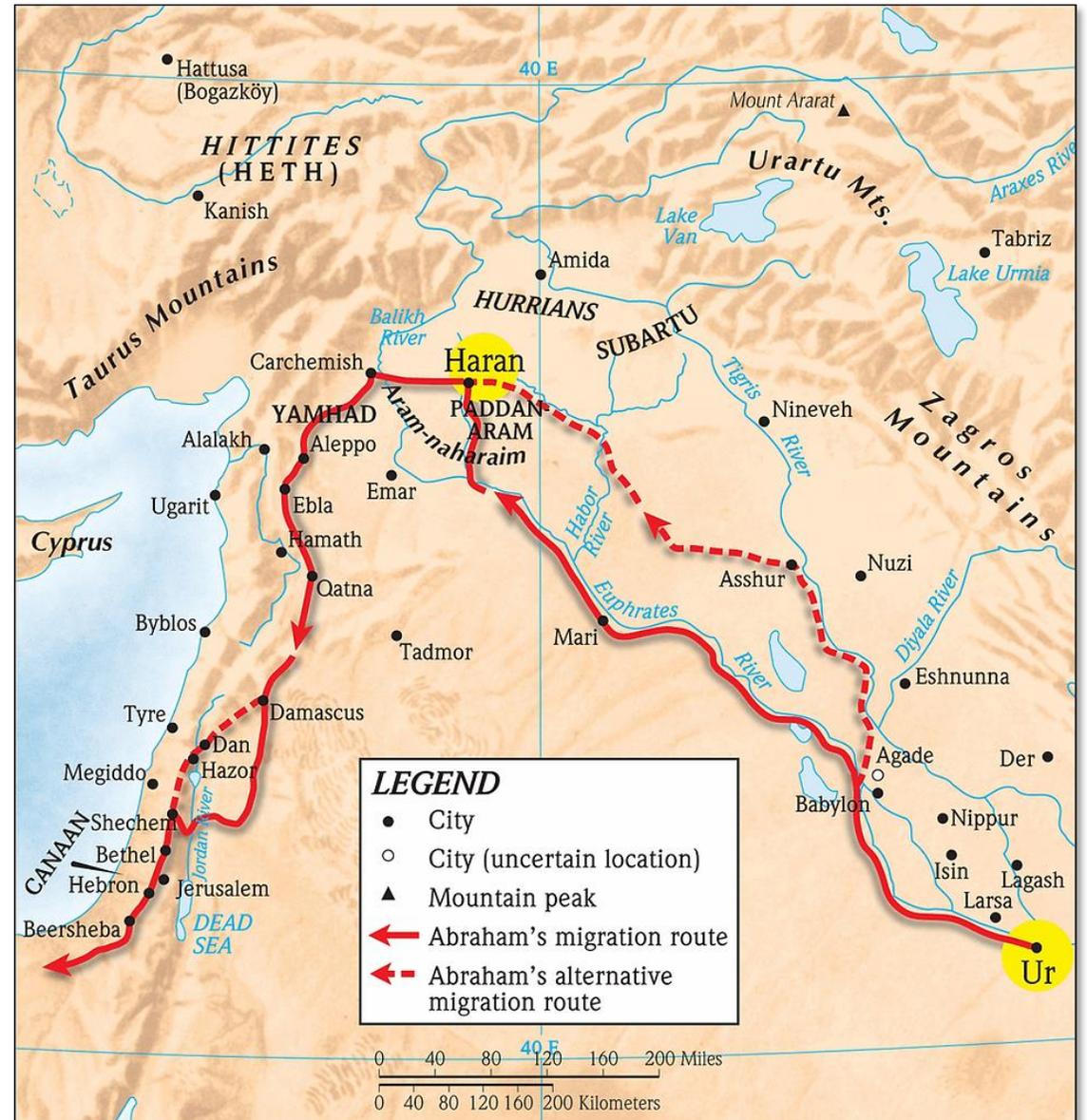
God's promise to Abraham

Go from your country
and your kindred
and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.

And I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you
and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and him who dishonors you I will curse,
and in you all the families of the earth
shall be blessed.

(Genesis 12:1-3)



Abraham's experiences thus far...

- Ch 12 – Abraham went down to Egypt, **almost losing Sarah**, and returned.
- Ch 13 – Abraham separated from Lot who chose the Jordan Valley and Sodom.
- Ch 14 – Abraham rescued Lot and the people of Sodom from captivity.
- Ch 14 – **Abraham met Melchizedek** and gave away the spoils of the battle.
- Ch 15 – God made a covenant with Abraham **by sacrifice**.
- Ch 16 – Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham, and **Ishmael was born**.
- Ch 17 – God renewed the covenant and instituted the sign of circumcision.
- Ch 18 – **God visited Abraham and Sarah** and promised a son in the coming year.
- Ch 18 – Abraham interceded for Sodom – Lot was saved, Sodom was destroyed.
- Ch 20 – Abraham and Sarah stay in Gerar, and **Sarah is almost lost again**.
- Ch 21 – **Isaac was born** and soon after Hagar and Ishmael were sent away.

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Genesis 22:1-19

The trial of Abraham's faith

The *Akedah*, from
Hebrew ,הַקְדָּשׁ = binding



➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

When?

Why?

After these things **God tested Abraham**
and said to him, "*Abraham!*"

And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 22:1)

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

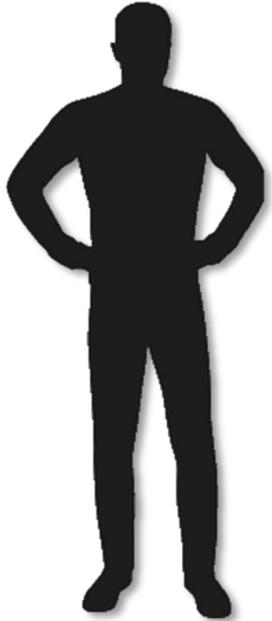
God tested Abraham

OBJECTIONS:

- It was very cruel
- It was unnecessary
- It changed nothing

OBSERVATIONS:

- ✓ It was for us to see and profit from it
- ✓ It defined what faith is
- ✓ It blessed Abraham

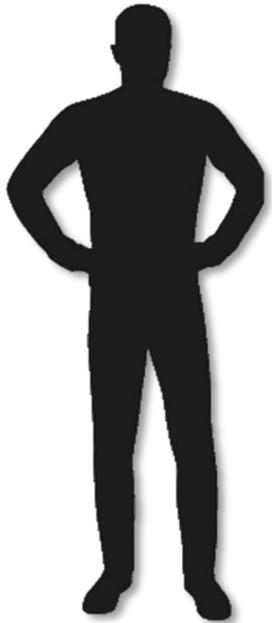


➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

God tested Abraham

A unique man with a unique calling
at a unique time was tested
in a unique and never-to-be-repeated way.

**We learn from principles
made unmistakably clear.**



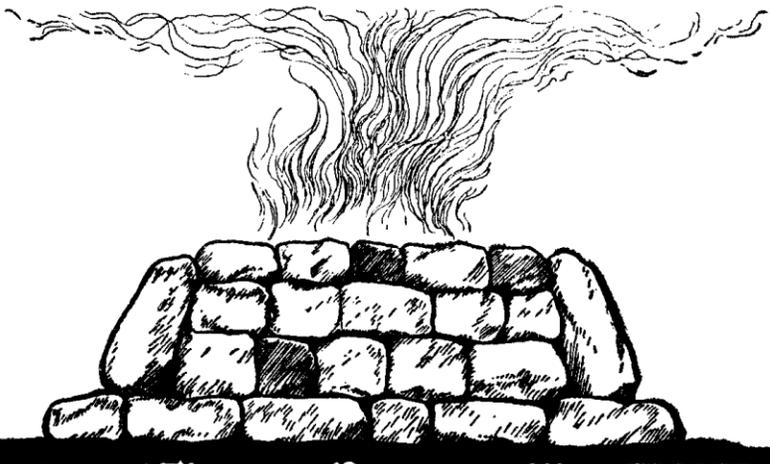
➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

His only son?

*"Take **your son,**
your only son Isaac,
whom you love,
and go to the land of Moriah,
and offer him there as a burnt offering
on one of the mountains
of which I shall tell you."*

(Genesis 22:2)

Solomon began building the
LORD's house in Jerusalem
on Mount Moriah...
(2 Chronicles 3:1)



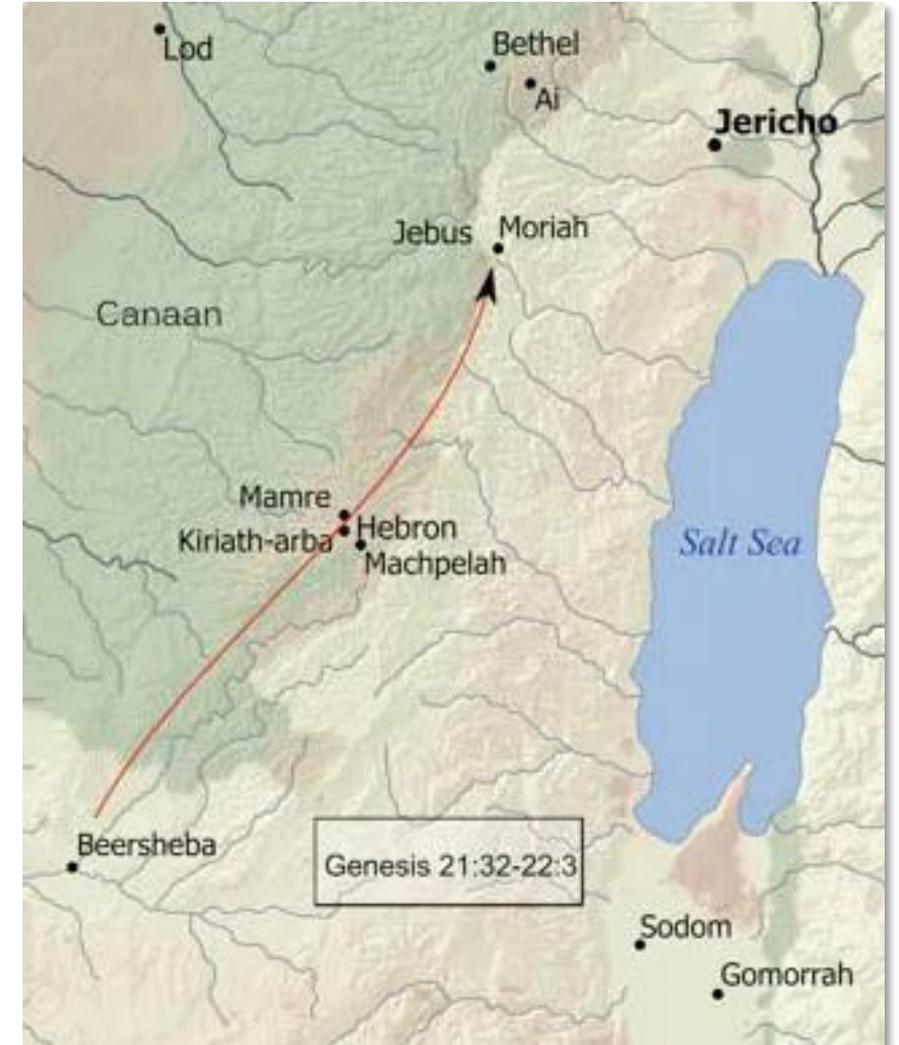
➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

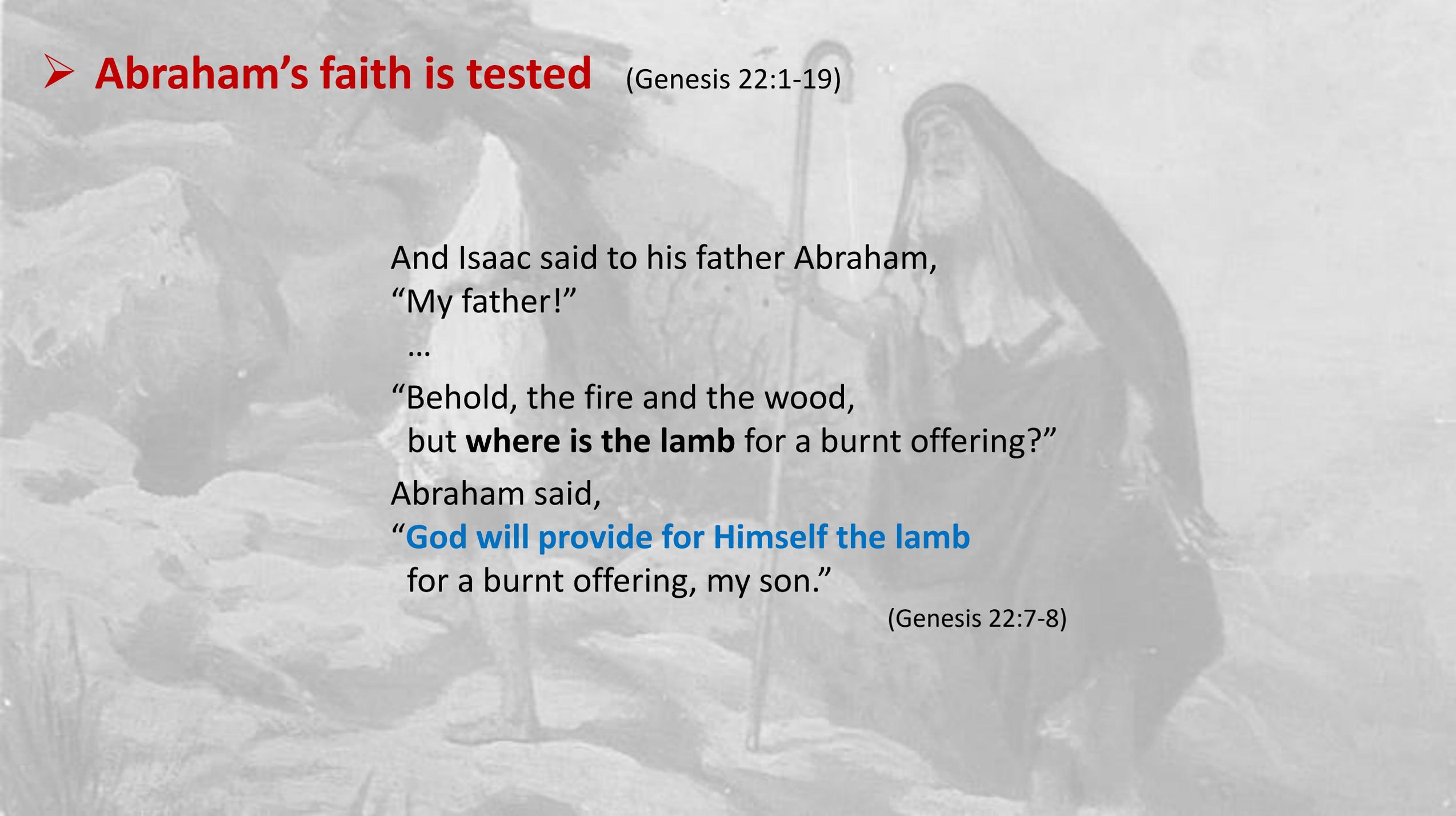
So Abraham rose early in the morning...
and went to the place
of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham lifted his eyes
and saw the place from afar.

Then Abraham said to his **young men**,
“Stay here with the donkey;
I and **the boy** will go over there and worship
and come again to you.”

(Genesis 22:3-5)





➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

And Isaac said to his father Abraham,
“My father!”

...

“Behold, the fire and the wood,
but **where is the lamb** for a burnt offering?”

Abraham said,

“**God will provide for Himself the lamb**
for a burnt offering, my son.”

(Genesis 22:7-8)

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

A very specific place

When they came to the place **of which God had told him**, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

(Genesis 22:9-10)

To kill for a sacrifice

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said,

"Abraham, Abraham!" ...

"Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for **now I know that you fear God**, seeing you have not withheld **your son, your only son, from Me.**"

(Genesis 22:11-12)

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked,
and behold, behind him was a ram,
caught in a thicket by his horns.

And Abraham went and took the ram
and offered it up as a burnt offering
instead of his son.

So Abraham called the name of that place,

“The LORD will provide” ...

(Genesis 22:13-14)

Hebrew: *YHWH Yireh*
Traditionally *Jehovah Jireh*

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

And Abraham went and took the ram
and offered it up as a burnt offering

Look! Substitution!

instead of his son.

So Abraham called the name of that place,

"The LORD will provide"

Christ died for our sins

in accordance with
the Scriptures...

(1 Corinthians 15:3)

*Your father Abraham
rejoiced to see My day
and **he saw it** and was glad.*

(John 8:56)

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

And Abraham went and took the ram
and offered it up as a burnt offering
instead of his son.

So Abraham called the name of that place,
"The LORD will provide" ...

**He who did not spare His own Son,
but gave Him up for us all—
how will He not also, along with Him,
freely give us all things?**

(Romans 8:32)

➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

“By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,
because you have done this
and have not withheld your son, your only son,
I will surely bless you, and
I will surely multiply your offspring
as the stars of heaven and as the sand
that is on the seashore.

And your offspring shall possess the gate
of his enemies, and in your offspring
shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,
because you have obeyed My voice.”

(Genesis 22:16-18)



➤ Abraham's faith is tested (Genesis 22:1-19)

Hebrews 11:17-19:

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

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

In his heart it was already done.

Coming down from the altar



➤ **Abraham's faith is tested** (Genesis 22:1-19)

More observations:

- ✓ The promised son had been born, but God's work was not finished.
- ✓ Abraham's affections did not rule him. (Matthew 10:37)
- ✓ His past obedience encouraged him to trust in God's goodness.
- ✓ His faith was in the unchangeable truth of God's promises.
- ✓ Abraham's will was submitted to God, not lost to God. (Romans 8:29)
- ✓ God's promises did not depend on Abraham's obedience but his obedience gave him a share in God's gracious work.

"Abraham, My friend"

(Isaiah 41:8)

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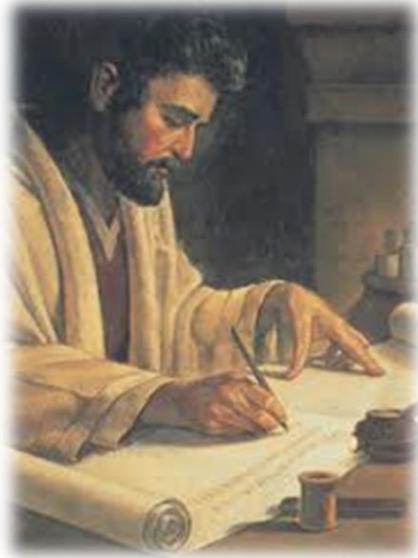
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- ✓ God has shown us in Abraham what true faith is, that is, how to relate rightly to the God of all grace.
- ✓ Through his obedience, Abraham received a revelation of Christ and God's plan for redemption.
- ✓ God's work in us is to perfect the obedience of faith that we might know His glory and glorify Him.

*You are my friends
if you do what I command you.*
(John 15:14)

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(1 Peter 1:6-7)

In this [*the hope of salvation*] you rejoice,
though now for a little while,
if necessary,
you have been grieved by various trials,
so that
the tested genuineness of your faith
—more precious than gold that perishes
though it is tested by fire—
may be found to result in
praise and **glory** and **honour**
at the revelation of **Jesus Christ**.