

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Sept Genesis 01
- 2) 13 Sept Genesis 02
- 3) 20 Sept Genesis 03-05
- 4) 27 Sept Genesis 06-07
- 5) 04 Oct Genesis 08-10
- 6) 11 Oct Genesis 11
- 7) 18 Oct Genesis 12-14
- 8) 25 Oct Genesis 15-16
- 9) 01 Nov Genesis 17
- 10) 08 Nov Genesis 18-20
- 11) 15 Nov Genesis 21
- 12) 22 Nov **Genesis 22-23**
- 13) 29 Nov Genesis 24

INTRODUCTION

- Why would God test his good disciples?
 - A. To punish them?
 - B. To prepare them for something bigger?
 - C. Just because God can do anything He wants?
 - D. To make good disciples great and great disciples greater?

Passage	Comments
22:1-24	<p>God tested Abraham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Abraham did not quibble, bark, or question God's directives. He dutifully got up early the next day to carry out the command. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In fact, Abraham was never noted to question any command, either from God or from his wife • Is Abraham a passive piece of milk toast? • Abraham might have been passive, but he was not a milk toast. Would you have the nerve to negotiate with God as Abraham did for the lives of any righteous people in Sodom & Gomorrah? • vv7-10. Isaac also must've had faith in his Dad to be bound willingly (a strong teenager could easily out run, or even overpower a 113 year old) • vv11-12. The Angel of the Lord (probably Jesus Himself) speaks to Abraham for the 2nd time in 2 days – but this time, He speaks "from heaven." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If God is omniscient, and He knows the heart of man, why did He say, "...now I know that you fear God..." • Principle – We are constantly open for godly testing. Will we honor God "thoroughly" or do our own thing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are tried every moment.....Job 7:18 • vv20-24. Nahor's children are listed, including Rebekah. Any significance to this passage? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider this. God is tying in the family tree to address issues that skeptics often have with lineages and timelines. Also note Nahor's son, Uz. Recall that Job was from the land of UzJob 1:1
23:1-20	<p>A Sliver of The Promised Land is Purchased</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah dies at 127. Abraham is ~137 years old, and he would live another 38 years, dying at 175 – a young man compared to Noah (950), Shem (600), Terah (205) • Abraham purchases a tiny parcel of land for a cemetery – the only piece of the Promise Land he ever owns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abraham realized the promises God gave to him would be fulfilled long after his death • As Heb 11:13 states, All OT saints died in faith, without receiving the promises, but saw them from a distance.
Consider this about the Land of Israel	<p>The Promised Land Plays Prominently in the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is 1st promised in Genesis 15 (~2000 years after Gen 1) • And we see the Jews residing in the land at the close of human history in Revelations (~4000 years later) • Yet, the Israelites only possess and rule the Promised Land of Israel for about 450 years, suffering 3 major deportations (Assyrians, Babylonians, and Romans) • ...and they have only recently been back in the land for a mere 100 years after being gone almost 2000 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1917 – Balfour Declaration re-established Israel as a Jewish nation (calculated as a 50th Jubilee year of restoration) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration • 1967 – 6-day war restored Jerusalem to Israel (another Jubilee year of restoration) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War • 2017 – Keep your eyes focused on Israel, since 2017 is another year of Jubilee see Leviticus 25 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jubilee_(biblical)

Comparison of the Sacrifices of Isaac and Jesus Christ

1. Both Isaac and Jesus Christ were miraculously born. [Recall that Abraham was over 100 years old and Sarah his wife in her 90's!]
2. Both Isaac and Christ brought joy to their Father
3. Both Isaac and Christ were born at a set time
4. Both Isaac and Christ were persecuted by their brothers
5. Two young men went with Isaac; Christ hung between two men
6. Isaac carried the wood, Christ carried the cross
7. Isaac questioned his father ["where is the sacrificial ram?"] and Christ asked, "Is there another way?"
8. Christ was obedient unto death; Isaac was also willing to die since he could've easily outran or overpowered his 113-year-old Dad
9. Both sons were "resurrected" or "given back" to their fathers
10. The sacrifices were offered on Mt Moriah (OT) – Mt Calvary (NT)
11. Isaac's ram was caught in the thorns, and Jesus had a crown of thorns on his head
12. The ram was Isaac's substitute; Jesus was our substitute
13. The Cross was hard, but not impossible for God to put His Son through; For Abraham, Isaac's sacrifice was not as difficult to go through either since Isaac was probably a teenager at that time (a little humor thrown in)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Testing of God's children is a foregone conclusion – Bank on it happening to each and every one of us if we truly belong to God
- We cannot grow or mature without tough times...and sometimes the bigger the challenges you have in life means God wants to use you in big ways (consider the lives of Abraham, Job, Joseph, Apostle Paul)

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 24. OT Dating Practice #4 – Let your dad find a wife for you. Abraham sends his servant with 10 camels to search out a wife for Isaac. 10 Camels can carry 4500 lbs of stuff. Was this wife-searching serious business, or what?



“Dude, blood sacrifices are so old school. Here, if you’re going to make an offering, use this. ...It’s much more convenient and a whole lot less messy.”