

Israel's Patriarch

A Study in Genesis 12-24

Behold, the Provision
of the LORD
Genesis 22:1-24
November 22, 2020

MAIN POINT: The LORD calls his people to fearful and loving obedience and humble trust as he shows himself to be their Faithful Provision.

I. ABRAHAM'S "HERE I AM" BEFORE GOD (vv. 1-6)

- The LORD tests now one-hundred-[and]-ten-plus-year-old Abraham. This is a test, not a temptation, for the LORD tempts no one (Jas. 1:13-15).
 - Testings are meant to prove the character of our faith (cf. Deut. 8:2).
- The test entails Abraham offering up his son, his only son, the one whom he loves, Isaac.
 - This occurs in the land of Moriah, a place associated with substitutionary sacrifice and the future temple (cf. 1 Chron. 21; 2 Chron. 3).
- Abraham's trust in the promises and power of the LORD empowers his fearful and loving obedience.

II. ABRAHAM'S "HERE I AM" BEFORE ISAAC (vv. 7-10)

- Feel the weight of this narrative as it slows WAY down!
- The circumstances facing Abraham are overcome as he looks to what is unseen by faith, namely, the LORD who will provide (cf. 2 Cor. 4:16-18).
- Isaac's obedience stems from his trust in the LORD and in his father.
 - His trust in the LORD organically grows from the stories his father told him of the LORD's faithfulness to his promises.

III. ABRAHAM'S "HERE I AM" BEFORE THE ANGEL OF THE LORD (vv. 11-19)

- The angel of the LORD calls to Abraham to stay his hand, and in so doing Abraham figuratively receives Isaac back from the dead (Heb. 11:17-19).
 - The ram is a substitute for Isaac, which is provided by the LORD.
- Through the child of promise, Isaac, would come multiple offspring—one of whom will bring victory over God's enemies and usher in God's blessings.

IV. BEHOLD THE OFFSPRING OF NAHOR (vv. 20-24)

- This segmented genealogy (i.e., a genealogy that establishes family units) foreshadows Jacob's children and the nation of Israel.
 - From Israel would shine forth the glory of the LORD into the darkness of the nations, spreading the fame of the LORD far and wide.

V. BEHOLD, THE PROVISION OF THE LORD

- Jesus Christ, in a whole host of ways, is the one whom Gen. 22 anticipates.
 - Jesus is the true and better Abraham (cf. Heb. 4:15; 5:7-10).
 - Jesus is the true and better Isaac (cf. Matt. 3:17; 26:36-46; Rom. 8:32; Phil 2:8).
 - Jesus is the true and better Lamb of God (cf. Ps. 2:7; John 1:29).
 - Jesus is the true and better resurrected Son (cf. 1 Cor. 15:4, 20-28).
 - Jesus is the true and better seed of Abraham (cf. Gal. 3:16; Col. 1:13-15).
 - Jesus is the Son who brings us to the Father by his Spirit (cf. Gal. 4:4-7).

Suggested Reading:

The Promises of God by Charles Spurgeon (revised and updated by Tim Chester)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 22:1-24

1. What do you make of the test the LORD brings to Abraham? What was its purpose? How do you tend to respond to the LORD's testing of you?
2. Spend some time recounting the promises of the LORD, meditate on them, and discuss how those promises help to motivate us toward future obedience.
3. How do you tend to respond to the visible circumstances in your life? Are you prone to focusing in on what is seen or what is unseen? How do Paul's words in 2 Cor. 4:16-18 encourage us both to persevere through suffering as we turn our eyes from seen circumstance to unseen promises?
4. How does the ram in the thicket depict substitutionary atonement? Take some time to discuss the biblical connections between Gen. 22, 1 Chron. 21, and 2 Chron. 3, considering specifically substitutionary atonement on the mount of the LORD.
5. What are your thoughts regarding genealogies? As we've been making our way through Genesis, has your appreciation for genealogies grown? Why or why not?
6. Work through the ways in which Jesus is anticipated throughout Gen. 22... beholding the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.