

The Faith Test - Genesis 22:1-14

11-22-15

I. The Test Presented - Gen. 22:1-2

1. Sometime later (**verse 1**)
 - after the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael
 - after a covenant with Abimelech
2. "Tested" - not that God enticed Abraham to do wrong
 - the idea is to "prove" him
 - God tests to refine the character
 - here God challenged Abraham's faith
3. Calls Abraham by name - "here I am"
 - he available for service
 - ready to serve
- Rea 4. The test is of Abraham's willingness
 - willing to give up son, is willing to trust God
5. Mt. Moriah - a vague reference to a vague place (**verse 2**)
6. Abraham's hopes were wrapped up in Isaac
- Rea **Ideas:**
 1. Discuss the problems with God asking for Isaac
 - the character of God is to sacrifice children?
 - the future lies with Isaac
 2. The test:
 - his faith is tested?
 - his willingness to take it to the nth degree is tested?
 - his understanding of what God is doing is tested
 3. Does God need to know anything? - why the test?
 - for that matter why was Jesus tested - driven into the wilderness - Matthew 4:1ff

II. The Test Preparation - Gen. 22:3-8

1. He raised no protest - as he did in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah (**verses 3-4**)
2. Preparations:
 - A. Early the next morning
 - B. Heads off for the place God has indicated
 - C. Takes wood
 - *meticulous in the details...
 - Rea -makes the absence of a sacrifice seem more odd
 - D. On the third day
 - E. Two servants (**verse 5**)
 - not told why
 - he must take on the test alone
 - Rea -no one can be tested for you - there are things we do alone
3. We will return - he fully expected to bring Isaac back with him
 - "worship" literally means to bow down
4. Abraham expected his worship to cost him greatly
- Rea 5. He obeyed in his heart, before it was to obey in reality... - in his heart he had already given Isaac - important! We give in our heart before we do from our wallet

6. Isaac addressed his dad and asked about the sacrifice (**verses 6-7**)
 -where is the lamb?
- Rea -good dramatic flow... as the story unfolds... the ironic happens... the sacrifice asks about the sacrifice - and Abe gives a faith answer - God will provide
7. God Himself will provide (**verse 8**)
 -John the Baptist identified Jesus as the “lamb of God” who takes away the sin of the world
- Rea **Ideas:**
1. To have faith is one thing... to follow through is quite another - works “prove” faith
 2. Why do you think that Abraham said “we will return?”
 3. In the New Testament we find that God provides a lamb... that only He could provide
 4. Why test Abraham? What good does it do? Does it further the cause of the Israelites... doesn't it just make Yahweh look like a mean God?

III. The Test Passed - Gen. 22:9-12

1. Isaac is brought to the brink of death (**verses 9-10**)
 - A. He bound his son
 - B. The son could've run away or overpowered the aging man - he was willing... voluntarily to be sacrificed
 - in so submitting Isaac became a type of Christ
- Rea 2. God made an altar (the cross)
 - God provided a sacrifice (Jesus)
 - God made all the preparations
3. The angel of the Lord (**verses 11-12**)
 - A. God intervenes to provide a sacrifice
 - B. Sacrifices are metaphors of spiritual truth
 - the symbol is that of giving oneself completely
 - Rea C. Don't miss the irony he calls out “Abraham” in the same way that He called out “Abraham” at verse 1 - his response is the same “here I am”
 - the same God who speaks in judgment is the God who speaks in mercy
 - what about the idea of obedience now?
4. Abraham has passed the test - know I know
 - I know you “fear God” - piety
 - Rea -“fear” is a part of respect - look up to
- Rea **Ideas:**
 1. God went through with this type sacrifice... in the life of Jesus
 2. Abraham “proved” himself... he did not withhold his son... his only son
 3. This is an act of worship... so there is a test within the worship?

IV. The Test Provision - Gen. 22:13-14

1. God provided a ram - caught in a thicket (**verse 13**)
 - the ram is a substitute for his son
 - substitutionary atonement
2. Names the place “The Lord Will Provide” (**verse 14**)
 - Rea -Jehovah Jireh
- Rea **Ideas:**

1. God provides... - just in the nick of time
2. Provides what we need or what we want?
3. He wants something... then He provides it?
4. God's provision comes at the end of God's test*
5. A substitution for what God really wants?

Allan Moseley/ SS Notes for 11-22-15