

Trusting God All the Way

Genesis 21:22-22:19

“The announcement in the opening line of Chapter 22 that God was testing Abraham serves to cushion the reader from the shock that follows. How painful this story would be to read for the first time without the knowledge that it was a test. Also, the understanding that this is a test alerts us to the truth that growth in faith involves testing. As God tests our faith, it is stretched and thereby grows. Here Abraham’s faith was going to be stretched to the utter limit, and because he held firm, his faith has become the grand faith example in history. We see from this that the way to increase faith is to exercise faith. Trust God as you can, and he will give you so much more than you expected—and then you will trust him even more! It is also important to see that the test came after substantial spiritual growth and blessing. Abraham’s recent success and growth was the ground for greater testing and growth.” Grant Hughes

- I. Paul Tripp wrote this about God’s grace. *“Grace is a thunderous, expansive, powerful, and life-altering word. Other than the word of God, there is no more important word that the human mind could consider and the mouth could speak. It is the most transformational word in the Bible that you hold dear. In fact, your Bible is the cover-to-cover story of God’s grace. It is the best of stories, the story of the underserved redemption of lost ones and rebels. Scripture records for us how God reached into the muck and mire of our sin-broken world to rescue us, not because of what he saw in us but because of what was in him... You could dig deep into grace every day of your life and not reach the bottom of its power and glory. Grace is the bottomless treasure-laden mine of divine help.”* A wonderful illustration of that is seen in how God’s grace changed an unbeliever like Abimelech and a believer like Abraham to treat and respect one another with the kindness of grace, all to the glory of our Eternal God.

Gen. 21:22-34

‘ôlām 'ēl = Everlasting God

Titus 2:11-14 11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

- II. How far would you be willing to go for God if He asked you to do something that seemed unreasonable or just plain nuts? Would you do it, or would you hold back not trusting that God had your best interests in mind? We face challenges every day, but do we recognize the ones God has brought into our lives to test and deepen our faith? What God asked Abraham to do defied all reason. In fact, it was the kind of test that only Abraham had been prepared to face. Why test him in this way? What was God's purpose? His purpose was to show what true faith looks like. It trusts God no matter what. It's willing to do whatever God asks without hesitation. It knows that God will never fail us or ask us to do something beyond what we can bear. It understands that God is refining our faith as a blessing to us, so that we are then better equipped to stand firm in the faith as a strong witness for Him. Abraham's response to God touches us at a level deep within our hearts to show us how deep our love for God can go if we are willing to trust him in the many trials we will surely face until He calls us home.

Gen. 22:1-12

James 1:2-5

Hebrews 11:17-19

1 Cor. 10:13

Some Jewish commentators think Isaac was in his thirties at the time of this event. "The younger man, perhaps five-and-twenty — so Josephus thinks — possibly thirty-three years of age, and, if so, very manifestly the type of Christ, who was about that age when he came to die" (Spurgeon). Guzik

nāsā to test, try, prove, tempt, assay, put to the proof or test

1 Cor. 10:13 *13 No temptation (testing) has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted (tested) beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, (tested) he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

- III. The names God provides for Himself are meant to deepen our understanding of His character. *"The names of God are windows through which his character is seen. The names tell us that he is the Most High God, Possessor of Heaven and Earth (El Elyon), The Almighty God (El Shaddai), The Eternal, Unchanging God (El Olam), The Lord (Adonai), The God Who is There (Jehovah Shammah) and much more."* (Boice) Abraham added another name by calling God *Yēhovah yireh*, "Jehovah sees" "Jehovah will provide." *"When God asked Abraham for the ultimate demonstration of love and commitment, He asked for Abraham's son. When God the Father wanted to show us the ultimate demonstration of His love and commitment to us, He gave us His Son. We can say to the LORD, "Now I know that You love me, seeing You have not withheld Your Son, Your only Son from me." Guzik*

Gen. 22:13-19

'elohiym ra'ah = God will provide, will to see to it (vs. 3)

Yēhovah yireh = "Jehovah sees" "Jehovah will provide" (vs. 14)

Moriah = "chosen by Jehovah"

2 Chron. 3:1 *Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David.*