

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 19, June 24, 2026 Genesis 22 Abraham's Faith is Tested With Isaac

Genesis 22:1-8 God tested Abraham (Heb 11:17-19) The Offering of Isaac

Gen 22:1 Now it came to pass, after these things (**some time later**) that God tested Abraham (**so God tested his faith and commitment**), and (**God**) said to him, "Abraham!" And he said (**Abraham replied**), "Here I am."

We know God does not tempt anyone to do evil, but He does test people's commitment
James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone (**tempts no one to do evil**).

1Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Abraham's life often shows growing faith rather than instant perfection:
He left Ur with family but paused in Haran instead of continuing on.
He brought Lot even though God had called him away from his family.
He had his wife tell a half-truth and say she was his sister
God trained Abraham over many decades, bringing him to this place of great trust. He learned deeper dependence on God through many trials.
By Genesis 22, Abraham's obedience appears much more complete, than it was in Genesis 11–12. (Are we growing in our trust and faith?)

Rom 10:17 (Remember) faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Gen 22:2 Then He(**God**) said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac (son of promise, covenant), 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 (or show you)."

Mount Moriah, later site of Solomon's temple, Jerusalem.

2Ch 3:1 Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on (**and purchased**) the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Abraham also fathered Ishmael by Sarah's slave, Hagar, but Isaac was his only son of promise, the legal heir of Abraham.

Gen 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men (**servants**) with him, and Isaac his son; and he(**Abraham**) split (**cut**) the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went (**set out**) to the place of which God had told him.

Abraham responds quickly to the challenge placed before him. Abraham had to learn to trust God, at all cost, even if he did not understand. For many people their understanding is the final authority, it plays the role of God.

Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Pro 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes (don't be impressed with your own wisdom for it is prideful); Fear the LORD (with reverent awe and obedience) and depart from evil.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists (is opposed to) the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

1Pe 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Gen 22:4 Then on the third day (traveling) Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off (in the distance).

It would take about three days to travel on foot from Beersheba to Jerusalem approximately 30-45 miles,

Gen 22:5 And Abraham said to his young men (servants), "Stay here with the donkey; the lad (or young man, Isaac 15+ years old) and I will go yonder and worship (bow down, surrender before God), and we will come back to you (Abraham's faith, obedience included God raising his son back to life, Heb 11:19)."

Gen 22:6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on (the shoulders of) Isaac his son; and he (Abraham) took the fire in his hand, and a knife (special knife for sacrifice), and the two of them went together.

Isaac was not a baby as sometimes displayed, he was old enough to:

Understand the sacrifice (Gen 22:7),

Carry the wood (Gen 22:6),

Participate in the event (Gen 22).

As Jesus carried the crossbar for His own crucifixion, so here Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice.

Jhn 19:17 And He (Jesus), bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

Jhn 19:18 where they crucified Him (Jesus), and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

Gen 22:7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he(**Abraham**) said, "Here I am, my son." Then he(**Isaac**) said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Gen 22:8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb (**or himself a lamb**) for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together (**the thought here is they were in agreement**).

Genesis 22:9-14 Abraham built an Altar (Heb 11:17-19)

Gen 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he(**Abraham**) bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood (**the son was obedient also, Isaac laid down on the wood, ready to be sacrificed**).

Abraham is recorded in scriptures as building three altars previously:

At Shechem after God appeared to him and promised the land to his descendants (Gen 12:7)

Between Bethel and Ai where he called on the name of the Lord (Gen 12:8)

By the oaks of Mamre near Hebron after separating from Lot and receiving God's renewed promise (Gen 13:18)

Gen 22:10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son (**The Hebrew verb refers to a ritual procedure as a sacrifice by which the blood flows to the ground**).

Abraham displayed his heart towards God in that he was willing to give up his only son. God the Father gave us His Son. Jhn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Gen 22:11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him(**Abraham**) from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."

Many Bible scholars believe that this Angel may be a theophany, that is, a physical manifestation of God, in which case the word Angel is capitalized. The Angel of the LORD based on context, be the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God.

Gen 22:15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, Gen 22:16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—

Other examples:

The Angel of the LORD appears to Hagar (Gen 16), Moses at the burning bush (Ex 3), and Gideon (Judges 6). In these accounts and others the Angel is identified as God.

Gen 22:12 And He(**Angel of the LORD**) said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad (**young man, 15+**), or do anything to (**harm**) him; for now I know that you fear (**awe and reverence of**) God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son (**your son of promise, Isaac Gen 17:19, 21; 21:12**), from Me."

The emphasis is not merely that Isaac was Abraham's biological son, but that he was the unique son of promise, the one through whom all of God's covenant promises were to be fulfilled.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Heb 11:18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be **called (offspring, who will carry on your name Gen. 21:12),**"

Heb 11:19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense (**figurative point of view, like the resurrection**).

Abraham's actions here completed the faith he had already expressed in Gen 15:6 he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Jas 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (**Does your faith have works?**)

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

James 2:22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

Notice: His faith is active resulting in works, (his faith resulted in obedience).

Gen 22:13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket (**thick bush**) by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

Gen 22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide (**the LORD will "see to it", Jehovah Jireh**); as it is said to this day, "In the Mount (**Mount Mariah**), of the LORD it shall be provided (**or LORD provision will be made**)."

This is a prophetic statement which looks ahead to the fact that the Messiah, the Son of God, would be the ultimate sacrifice, chosen and provided by the Father."

The fact that an animal died in the place of Isaac suggests the principle of substitutionary atonement, applied to Jesus Christ death on the cross, the sacrifice necessary to atone for sin. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Jhn 1:36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he(John the Baptist) said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

Quote from David Guzik on Blue Letter Bible

Isaac's life as a picture of Jesus becomes even clearer:

- Both were loved by their father.
- Both offered themselves willingly.
- Both carried wood up the hill of their sacrifice.
- Both were sacrificed on the same hill.
- Both were delivered from death on the third day.

Genesis 22:15-19 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed

Gen 22:15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

Gen 22:16 and said: "By Myself, I have sworn (on the basis of Who I Am, I have sworn an oath**), says (**or decrees**) the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son (**from me**), your only son (**son of promise**)—**

The Eternal Faithfulness of the LORD

Psa 105:8 He(God**) remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,**

Psa 105:9 The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac,

Gen 22:17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants (Hebrew is seed; also in 22:17b, 18**) as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore (**beyond number**); and your descendants (**offspring**) shall possess (**conquer**) the gate (**strongholds**) of their enemies.**

Gen 22:18 "In your seed (through your descendants**) all the nations of the earth shall be blessed (**pronounce blessings on one another and experience repeated blessing**), because you have obeyed My voice."**

In conclusion: a single descendant of Abraham will overcome his enemies and bring blessing to all the nations (**and peoples**) of the earth through His blood on the cross. This oath to Abraham comes to fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Act 3:22 "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.'

Act 3:23 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

Act 3:25 "You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

Act 3:26 "To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

The promise to bring forth the Messiah from Abraham's lineage

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Gal 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

This truth is also available to us, or anyone who would believe

Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Rom 4:22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Rom 4:23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,

Rom 4:24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

Rom 4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Gods Plan for Israel

Rom 9:6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

Rom 9:7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

Rom 9:8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh (Abraham's natural blood line descendants), these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed (Abraham's true descendants, which are those who believe by faith).

Rom 9:9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

Gen 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men (**two servants**), and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt (**settled and lived**) at Beersheba.

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Genesis 22:20-24 The Family of Nahor, Abrahams brother

Gen 22:20 Now it came to pass, after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, "Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor (**eight sons**):

Gen 11:29 Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah.

Gen 22:21 "Huz (**or Uz**) his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

Job 32:2 Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God.

The strongest connection is that Elihu is called a Buzite, which likely means a descendant of Buz, Nahor's son listed in Genesis 22:21.

Many commentators believe this is intentional and places Elihu among the descendants of Abraham's extended family through Nahor.

<u>Genesis 22</u>	<u>Job</u>
Uz (Huz)	Land of Uz
Buz	Elihu the Buzite
Aram/Ram	Family of Ram

Because of these parallels, many commentators believe the author of Job intentionally places Job in the region settled by descendants of Abraham's brother Nahor. A possible family connection looks like this:

Nahor: Uz (Huz), Buz, Kemuel, and Aram

Then later:

Job lives in the land of Uz.

Elihu is a Buzite.

Elihu is of the family of Ram.

Gen 22:22 "Chesed (or Kesed), Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."

Gen 22:23 And Bethuel begot Rebekah (spelled Rebecca in Rom 9:10). These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

How many daughters were born, we don't know, because girls were not count?

Gen 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

Gen 24:2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

Gen 24:3 "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;

Gen 24:4 "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

After some time

Gen 24:15 And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

Gen 24:34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

Gen 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

Gen 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he(Isaac) took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Gen 22:24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah (**four other children**).

Concubine a type of secondary wife much lower in rank than the official wife who managed the household and gave birth to the legitimate children. Usually Concubines had marginal rights to financial support and recognition. Their children were usually acknowledged as offspring of the man, but were usually of lower status than the children born to the official wife.

Quote from David Guzik on Blue Letter Bible

This taking of an additional wife or concubine was recognized as legal and was culturally accepted in the ancient world, including the world Abraham and the patriarchs lived in. However, it was never in God's plan. We know this because of the pattern given in Genesis 2:24, that a man should leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. In speaking upon the Genesis 2:24 principle, Jesus clearly told us that this was God's intention at the beginning (Matthew 19:4-6). God never gave a specific command against polygamy until the New Testament, but God showed in principle that it was never His heart. In addition, whenever we see the family life of a polygamous household in the Bible, those families are marked by chaos and conflict.

Charts

<u>First Mention</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Brief Significance</u>
Love	Gen 22:2	First mention of love: a father loving his son. Picture of the Father's love for Christ.
Worship	Gen 22:5	True worship is pictured as surrender and obedience to God.
Lamb	Gen 22:7	Introduces the sacrificial lamb theme fulfilled in Christ.
Provide	Gen 22:8, 14	God will provide. Leads to Jehovah-Jireh (The LORD Will Provide).
Only Son	Gen 22:2, 12	Highlights Isaac as the unique son of promise; foreshadows Christ.
Tested	Gen 22:1	Distinguishes testing for faith from tempting to sin.
Resurrection	Gen 22	Abraham believed God could restore Isaac by rising him from the dead (Heb 11:19)
Sub-Sacrifice	Gen 22:13	A ram dies in place of Isaac; foundation of substitution.

Scripture

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Promises of God</u>
Numbers 23:19	God does not lie or change His mind; what He promises He will do.
Joshua 21:45 “	Not one of God's good promises failed to Israel.
Joshua 23:14	Every promise God made came true.
1 Kings 8:56	Not one word of God's promises fail.
Psalms 145:13	The Lord is faithful in all His words.
Isaiah 55:10–11	God's word accomplishes what He sends it to do.
Lamentations 3:22–23	God's faithfulness is renewed every morning.
2 Corinthians 1:20	All God's promises are “Yes” in Christ.
Hebrews 10:23	God is faithful to keep His promises