

Faith and Trials

Abraham—part 15

Genesis 22:1-19

September 20, 2026

Abraham's history

Genesis 17:19 ... your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

The trial begins

*Genesis 22:1 Sometime later God **tested** Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”*

“Here I am,” he replied.

*² Then God said, “Take **your son**, your **only son**, **whom you love**—**Isaac**—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”*

Genesis 22:3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

Genesis 22:4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Genesis 22:6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Genesis 22:8a Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

Genesis 22:9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

The conundrum

*Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”¹⁹ Abraham **reasoned** that **God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.***

The climax

Genesis 22:9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

Genesis 22:12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

*¹³ Abraham looked up and **there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns.** He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt **offering instead of his son.**¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”*

Perhaps we should consider into
Whose hands we commit ourself!

Genesis 22:15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” ¹⁹ Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

The meaning of this episode:

- The Lord will provide the sacrifice for sin.
- On this mount, the Lord will be seen.
- We can have confidence in God that even in the direst of heartaches, our redeemer God is at work telling a larger story in our lives and through our lives.
- A day is coming when we will finally see the larger story of every heartache.
- The testimony of untold numbers of people is similar to Abraham’s. By God’s grace they were able to face even the worst they could imagine and began to understand the heart of God like never before. “Even in THIS, God was at work for ultimate good.”

The foreshadowing:

- **The place**
- **The lamb**

Genesis 22:8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

John 1:29 “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

- **The wood**

- **The binding**

- **The acceptance**

Isaiah 53:7 “Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.”

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

SACRIFICE, SUBSTITUTION, RESURRECTION