

Genesis 22

Scriptures:

Notes:

At 11:30 am May 29, 1953, Sir Edmund Hilary became the first man to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the highest peak on earth – 29,002 feet above sea level. No one will ever climb higher.

In our text today Abraham will make an ascent to the peak of a spiritual mountain – Moriah. Only Christ will climb higher when He ascends to top of Calvary.

Chapter 22 gives us the faintest glimpse of what Calvary means to the Father.

“All that Moriah meant to Abraham in terms of agony and heartache and pain; that a thousandfold, ten-thousandfold, is what Calvary meant to God.” (Phillips, 1980) page 179

“A watch that no longer truly records the passage of time has very little worth; a man who does not glorify God in his life negates the purpose for which he was made.” (Phillips, 1980) page 180

Scriptures:

¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God

Notes:

“The understanding that this is a test alerts us to the truth that growth in faith involves testing.” (Hughes, 2004) page 301

“...the way to increase faith is to exercise faith.” (Hughes, 2004) page 301

tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!”

5254 – “To put to the test in order to ascertain the nature of something, including imperfections, faults, or other qualities.”

Everything that had transpired in Abraham’s life was preparing him for this test. God always prepares us for the tests He gives us.

It is estimated that fourteen to sixteen years have passed. This would make Isaac between seventeen and nineteen.

And he said, “Here I am.”

² Then ^AHe said, “Take now ^Ayour ^Ison, your only

Notes:

We know it was a test but Abraham did not. From this we learn that faith during testing involves not understanding what God is doing but trusting Him enough to go along with what He wants you to do.

^Ison ^AIsaac, whom you ^Alove, and go to the land of

Abraham knew exactly what God mean when he said ‘offer him. He had made many animals sacrifices to God. First the animal’s throat is cut, its blood is drained, then it is dismembered and burned on the fire.

Moriah, and offer ^Ihim there as a burnt offering on

5927 – “To present a burnt sacrifice to a deity as an offering.”

5930 – “A kind of sacrifice that included the acceptable parts of the sacrificial animal being

Human sacrifice is outside our experience and the thought is repulsive to most people. But to Abraham, he had come from a culture where human sacrifice was practiced and some of the cultures in Canaan also engaged in human sacrifice.

“God was asking him to act against common sense, his natural affections, and his lifelong hope.” (Hughes, 2004) page 301

one of the mountains of which ^AI shall tell ^Ayou.”

We are not told how Abraham felt after hearing this horrific command from the Lord, but we can try to imagine the unbelievable torment he would have felt, maybe doubts and questions. If he did feel those things, he didn’t express them, and they didn’t keep him from obedience.

³ So Abraham^A rose ~~early~~^S in the morning and

Notes:
There does not appear to be any hesitation on Abraham's part – he just obeys. We are not told whether or not he told Sarah what was going on.

saddled his ^Adonkey, and took two of his ^Ayoung

[♂]men with him, and Isaac^{I A ♂} his son; and he split the ^A

wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to

the place of which [△]God had told him.^A

Scriptures:

⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes

Notes:

and saw the place afar off.

Scriptures:

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here

Notes:

He didn't tell the young men, or Isaac what was going really on. It wasn't a lie because every act of obedience is an act of worship.

with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and

'...we will come back...' – what a tremendous display of faith. We know by reading the rest of the account that Abraham intended to go through with God's command and he also expected to come back with Isaac – alive.

worship, and we will come back to you."

Abraham believed God when He said it would be through Isaac that a great multitude of people would be born. Abraham reasoned that if he obeyed God and sacrificed Isaac as he was told that God would have to raise him from the dead to keep His promise to Abraham. What amazing faith!

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Abraham believed that God would raise him from the dead (Heb. 11:17-19). This is truly astonishing because at this point there is no record of anyone ever being raised from the dead. Here we have the beginning of what will become one of the key doctrines of the church – the bodily resurrection of the dead.

Scriptures:
John 19:17-18 - And He,
bearing His cross, went out
to a place called the Place
of a Skull, which is called
in Hebrew, Golgotha,
18 where they crucified
Him, and two others with
Him, one on either side, and
Jesus in the center.

⁶ So Abraham^A took the wood of the burnt offering

Notes:
The area was too steep for the
donkey to climb.

The wood on Isaac's back is
prophetic of Christ carrying His cross
to Calvary ([John 19:17-18](#)).

and laid it on Isaac^I his son^A; and he[♂] took the fire in ^A

^A his hand, and a knife, and the two of them^{A, I} went

together.

Scriptures:

⁷ But ^IIsaac spoke to ^AAbraham ^Ihis father and said,

Notes:

'my father/my son' = tender affection

'where is the lamb?' – Isaac had no idea what was about to take place. Nothing in his life even hinted at what his father was about to do.

^I“My father!”

And ^Ahe said, “Here ^AI am, ^Amy [♂]son.”

Then ^Ihe said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but

where ^{is} the lamb for a burnt offering?”

Scriptures:
Romans 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?

John 1:29 - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide

7200 -

Notes:

This whole account is a picture of what will come 2,500 years later when God provides for Himself the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

"God will provide for Himself" states Abraham's absolute trust in God but also allows for God to be God." (Hughes, 2004) page 303

"We pay Him the highest honour, when, in the affairs of perplexity, we nevertheless entirely acquiesce to His providence." John Calvin (Hughes, 2004) page 303

for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the

two of them went together.

Scriptures:
Isaiah 53:7 -

He was oppressed and He
was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His
mouth;
He was led as a lamb to
the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its
shearers is silent,
So He opened not His
mouth.

^{A+I}9 Then they came to the place of which ^ΔGod had

told ^Ahim. And ^AAbraham built an altar there and

Notes:

As the bearer of the wood, Isaac was the stronger of the two. There is no way that Abraham could have bound his son without his consent. Isaac trusted his father implicitly. It is likely also that he trusted God but that is not told to us about him yet.

Isaac is a willing participant in what is going on. And he appears to do it silently. This same behavior is described of Jesus ([Isa. 53:7](#)).

placed the wood in order; and he ^Abound ^IIsaac ^Ahis

6123 -

^{σ7}son and laid ^Ihim on the altar, upon the wood.

Scriptures:

James 2:21-24 - Was not
Abraham our father
justified by works when he
offered Isaac his son on the
altar? 22 Do you see that
faith was working together
with his works, and by
works faith was made
perfect? 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.
24 You see then that a man
is justified by works, and
not by faith only.

^A10 And Abraham stretched out ^Ahis hand and took

the knife to slay ^Ahis ^{σ7}son.

7819 – sacrifice,
slaughter

Notes:

The reality and power of Abraham's faith shines forth in this act of obedience ([Jam. 2:21-24](#)).

Scriptures:

¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from

Notes:

heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”

So he said, “Here I am.”

Scriptures:

12 And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad,

Notes:

or do anything to him; for now I know that you

fear God, since you have not withheld your son,

3372 - revere

2820 -

your only son, from Me.”

Scriptures:

13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and

Notes:
Abraham had told Isaac, God will provide. And just as he believed God did!

there behind *him was* a ram caught in a thicket by

its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and

offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his

~~son~~.

Scriptures:

¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place,

Notes:
For Abraham, 'God will provide' went from faith to fact. That is what growing faith does. It transforms from believing God will do something to knowing God will do something.

The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day,

"...the Lord who tests is the Lord who provides." (Hughes, 2004) page 304

God always provides. If God tests – God provides. God will not lead us into a test that He has not planned to provide a way for us to get through the test. With greater faith.

"In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Scriptures:

15 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a

Notes:

second time out of heaven,

Scriptures:

Hebrews 6:13-18 - For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the

Notes:

Abraham's extraordinary faith results in God swearing an oath by Himself (Heb. 6:13-15). This is the first place we see God doing this.

Lord, because you have done this thing, and have

"It is all so simple. We grow in faith as we believe the bare Word of God. The process is this: God comes to us with His Word, and we are challenged to believe. When we believe His Word, He tests us by stretching our faith so it can grow to greater dimensions than before. There are always valleys next to the hilltops of faith. There are ups and downs. But God grows our faith incrementally, so that we are enabled to give our 'Isaacs' to God." (Hughes, 2004) page 305

not withheld your son, your only son—

Scriptures:

¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will

Notes:
'shall possess the gate of their
enemies.' – This is the first time this
is added to the Abrahamic covenant.

multiply your descendants as the stars of the

heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore;

and your descendants shall possess the gate of

3423 - occupy

their enemies.

Scriptures:

18 In ^Ayour ~~seed~~ all the nations of the earth shall be

Notes:

blessed, because ^Ayou have obeyed ^{My}My voice.”

Scriptures:

19 So ^AAbraham returned to his ^Ayoung ^{men}men, and

Notes:

^{A*07}they rose and went together to Beersheba; and

^AAbraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Scriptures:

²⁰ Now it came to pass ^{after} after these things that it

Notes:

was told ^A Abraham, saying, “Indeed Milcah also

has borne children to your ^A brother Nahor:

Scriptures:

²¹ Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the

Notes:

father of Aram,

Scriptures:

²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.”

Notes:

Scriptures:

²³ And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight

Notes:
This is setting the stage for chapter 24.

Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

Scriptures:

²⁴ His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also

Notes:

bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah.

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