

I. Introduction and review.

II. By faith Abraham offered up Isaac. v. 17-19

- A. God tested Abraham's faith. v. 17a Gen. 22:1-2**
- 1. He commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering.**
 - 2. No explanation is offered to Abraham.**
 - 3. This is the supreme test of faith.**
- B. Abraham obeyed God by offering up his son Isaac. v. 17b**
- 1. He did not argue or object.**
 - 2. He obeyed immediately. Gen. 22:3-4**
 - 3. In a sense Abraham actually offered Isaac to God. 9:28 10:11-12 11:4 Ge. 22:5-10**
 - 4. In a sense Abraham sacrificed himself.**
- C. What made the trial most severe was that Isaac was the son through whom God's promises were to be fulfilled. v. 17b-18**
- 1. In what sense was Isaac the *only* son of Abraham? v. 17b Gen. 22:2,12**
 - 2. God's promise could only be fulfilled through Isaac. Gen. 17:21 21:12**
 - 3. God's command seems to contradict God's promise. Ro. 9:7**
- D. Abraham trusted that God would fulfill His promise. v. 19**
- 1. He reckoned God could raise Isaac from the dead. Gen. 22:5**
 - 2. This isn't the first time he believed God could bring life out of death. Ro. 4:19-21**
 - 3. In a sense (parable) Abraham did receive Isaac back from the dead. Ge. 22:11-14**

III. The death and resurrection of Isaac prefigures the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- A. Jesus is the only begotten Son, beloved by the Father. John 1:14,18 3:16,18 I Jo. 4:9**
- B. Jesus, like Abraham, was tested to the highest degree. 4:15 Mt. 4:1ff 26:36ff**
- 1. He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.**
 - 2. He was tested when facing the cross. John 19:17**
 - 3. He willingly laid down His life. John 10:17-18 Phil. 2:8 Isa. 53:7**
- C. God the Father sacrificed His own Son on our behalf. Mt. 27:46 Is. 53:10,6,4 Ro. 8:32 I Jo. 4:10**
- 1. God actually did what Abraham was willing to do. Jo. 3:16**
 - 2. The death of Jesus seemed to invalidate God's promises. Luke 24:21**
 - 3. In reality, the promises of God were fulfilled through Jesus' death. Gen. 3:15 Acts 2:23 Rev. 13:8**
 - 4. Jesus is the Lamb which God has provided as our substitute. 9:28 10:12,14 Gen. 22:8 John 1:29 I Pe. 1:18**
- D. God has raised Jesus from the dead. 13:20 I Pe. 1:21 I Cor. 15:20ff**
- E. The death and resurrection of Jesus (and Isaac) is a picture of our conversion (and baptism). Rom. 6:4-6 Eph. 2:5-6**

IV. You too will be tried like Abraham.

- A. Don't be surprised when God tests you. I Pe. 4:12-13**
- 1. The early church faced great trials. 10:32-34**
 - 2. You will experience hardships in this life. II Tim. 3:12**
 - 3. Sometimes your trials may seem to contradict God's promises.**
 - 4. God is sovereign over your trials. Eph. 1:11 Ro. 8:28 Gen. 50:20 Job 1-2**
 - 5. Don't get angry with God.**
 - 6. God will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability. I Co. 10:13 II Pe. 2:9**
- B. Why does God test you?**
- 1. He is not seeking to tempt or destroy you. Js. 1:13-14 Mt. 4:1f 16:1 19:3 22:18
I Co. 7:5 I Th. 3:5 Rev. 2:10**
 - 2. God uses trials to prove your faith. Js. 2:21-24**
 - 3. God uses trials to strengthen your faith. James 1:1,12 I Pe. 1:6-7 Rom. 5:3-5**
 - 4. God uses trials to strengthen your loyalty to Him as your first love.**
 - 5. God uses your trials to glorify Himself. Job 1:8 2:3 John 9:3 II Cor. 12:7-10**
 - 6. When you are tested, realize God is working, even if you can't see the big picture.**
- C. The supreme trial is that of ultimate allegiance. Gen. 22:12**
- 1. God tested Abraham by taking away his treasure.**
 - 2. God wants you to seek and love Him above all others. Luke 14:26-27 Rom. 12:1**
 - 3. He may test you by taking away your treasure.**
 - 4. He wants you to trust Him, no matter what.**
- D. In the end you will receive life and blessing back from God. v. 19b 10:36 11:13-16
Job 19:25-27**

Discussion questions

- 1. What was the source of Abraham's trial?**
- 2. What made his trial most severe?**
- 3. What was Abraham's response to this test?**
- 4. How was Abraham able to offer Isaac to God as a burnt offering?**
- 5. How does Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac point to Christ?**
- 6. Why are many professing Christians completely unprepared for trials?**
- 7. Why does God test you?**
- 8. Upon what promises can you rely when we are tested?**
- 9. Why might God take away that which you treasure most in this life?**
- 10. What is the reward of obedient faith?**