

The Journey

Series 03: Covenant

Week 17: Isaac – Son of the Promise?

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

Summary of God's Covenant with Abraham...

- Promise of Land - *position as witnesses on the crossroads of the ancient world*
- Promise of Nation - *nation who would tell the world about the coming Deliverer*
- Promise of Leader (one descendant) – *He would bless the whole earth (Christ)*

What did Abram have to do so God would accept him as righteous (as if he had no sin)? There was nothing he could do. God declared Abram perfectly righteous because he believed God.

Genesis 15:6 (ESV) And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

“Abram put his trust in God (His promise for descendants leading to the Deliverer), God credited this belief to Abram’s account as righteousness. – David Guzik

Why did God wait before punishing Sodom and Gomorrah? He was patiently offering them the opportunity to repent, that is, agree with Him about their sin.

Why was Lot rescued? He believed he was a sinner and trusted in God’s promise to send the Deliverer.

BIG Idea

God wants us to know and trust Him. **We don't naturally trust strangers, do we?**

Until we come to know a person’s character, there is always that **element of doubt**.

God knows that so **He has given us the Bible to show us what He is like.**

Understanding and accepting what God has revealed about Himself in the Scriptures strengthens our faith in what He has said.

We’re going to learn how **Abraham grew to know and trust God**, even though God placed him in a situation that had potential to cause him to doubt.

Information (What We Need to Know)

God's Promise-Fulfilling and Testing of Abraham...

- God fulfilled His promise to give Abraham a son (25 years from time of promise)

Genesis 21:1 (ESV) The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. **2** And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. **3** Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

- ✓ What God says, He will do; Nothing is too hard for the Lord
- ✓ God is the giver of life

- God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac

Genesis 22:1 (ESV) After these things God **tested** Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” **2** He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, 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.”

- ✓ Isaac was a teenager or young adult at this point (some scholars - 27 years old)
- ✓ Isaac was the son of promise, so Abraham must have been grieved by this
 - “God intended that Isaac would follow Abraham as the next descendant in line through whom the Deliverer would be born.” – Firm Foundations
- ✓ This command was a test from God (not for God to know Abraham’s heart, but for Abraham to know his own heart) – *Stranger or Trustworthy God?*

- God would remain faithful to His promise

- ✓ Isaac was named as the promised son (no one else would fulfill the promise)

Genesis 17:19 (ESV) God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.”

- ✓ Abraham believed that what God says, He will do

Hebrews 11:19 (ESV) He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead...

- ✓ Abraham immediately obeyed God’s command

Genesis 22:3 (ESV) So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. **4** On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. **5** Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”

- Abraham and Isaac went to make a sacrifice to God

- ✓ Isaac questioned Abraham

Genesis 22:6 (ESV) And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. **7** And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**” **8** Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

- Isaac questioned where the lamb was for sacrifice
 - Abraham responded in faith that God would provide a sacrifice (something in place of Isaac)

- ✓ Abraham bound up Isaac

Genesis 22:9 (ESV) When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

- God provided a ram to take Isaac's place

- ✓ God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac

Genesis 22:10 (ESV) Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. **11** But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” **12** He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

- ✓ A ram was provided as a substitute for Isaac

Genesis 22:13 (ESV) And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

Application (What We Need to Do)

Genesis 22:14 (ESV) So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” **15** And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring... **18** and in your offspring shall **all the nations of the earth be blessed**, because you have obeyed my voice.”

*The following is from The Bible Project article, *Why Did God Ask Abraham to Sacrifice Isaac?* by Andy Patton.*

The entire Bible points to Jesus, and this is especially true of Genesis 22.

Genesis 22 is like a *lock*, and Jesus is the *key*.

Think about the parallels between Abraham/Isaac and God the Father/Jesus...

- Both are long-awaited *beloved sons*, born in miraculous circumstances
- Both carry the wood that is to be the instrument of their deaths on their backs
- In both stories, the father leads the son up a mountain, and the son follows obediently toward his own death
- In both scenarios, God provides the sacrificial substitute, which Abraham says will be a ram (male lamb). The New Testament identifies Jesus as the *lamb of God*

What do all these parallels mean?

Abraham and Isaac point beyond themselves to the Deliverer.

This story is a prophetic reenactment of the greater redemption God would someday accomplish through one of Abraham and Isaac's descendants, Jesus.

An exchange happens in Genesis 22 - the ram goes in place of Isaac.

This points to the greater exchange that happens at the cross, the Son of God in place of humanity.

In Jesus, God brings his own promised Son *into* death and *through* death.

Just like God spares Isaac, God spares humanity because he takes the cross on himself.