

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 22-23

Read Genesis 22:1-19

-Why did God command Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Why might this command have been perplexing? (cf. Gen. 17:19-21; 21:8-12)

-How did Abraham respond to God's command (v.3-10)?

-Did Abraham really believe that he would return from the mountain with Isaac, as he told his servants (v.5), or was he telling them a 'little white lie'? (cf. Hebrews 11:17-19)

-What does Abraham's example teach us about faith? (cf. James 2:21-24)

-What is the significance of the mountain on which Abraham offered Isaac (v.2,14)? (cf. 2 Chronicles 3:1)

-In what ways does this account in Genesis 22:1-19 point forward to Jesus Christ?

-What was the result of Abraham's obedience? (you might also consider Hebrews 6:13-17; 11:19; John 8:56)

-What can we learn from Abraham's example about facing trials? (you might also consider James 1:2-4,12; 1 Peter 1:3-7)

Read Genesis 22:20 to 23:20

-Why might those living in the land have considered Abraham a 'mighty prince'?

-Despite any respect the Hittites may have had for Abraham, was Ephron's offer to 'give' the land to Abraham genuine?

-What is the significance of Abraham's decision to bury Sarah in the land of Canaan, instead of sending her back to their native land to be buried with their family? (cf. Genesis 49:29-32)?

-How does the Bible evaluate Sarah's life? (you might also consider 1 Peter 3:1-6; Hebrews 11:11 in ESV/NASB, or NIV footnote)

Aliens and strangers in the world

When God tested his faith, by faith Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice, even though God had said to him that it was through Isaac that his offspring would be reckoned. He believed God's promises and trusted that God would fulfill every single one, even if it meant having to raise Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19), and so he obeyed God's command immediately and completely, and he continued on in an attitude of worship. As a result, he was blessed even more by God and received greater assurance of the certainty of God's promises. More than that, he caught, in God's provision of a substitute for Isaac, a glimpse of the glory of Jesus Christ. What God prevented Abraham from doing in sacrificing his son Isaac, God Himself would do, by providing His One and Only Son as the Lamb who would be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

When God brings trials into our lives for the testing of our faith, we ought to respond with the same faith and trust as Abraham did. If we respond in faith and obedience, such testing will refine our faith, producing perseverance and maturity that will bear fruit for the glory of Jesus Christ (James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:3-7). Not only that, but we will receive the crown of life that God has promised to all who love him (James 1:12). Spend some time reflecting this weekend on times in your life when God has used trials to test your faith. How did you respond? Resolve to respond in obedience and worship when next your faith is tested.