

## ABRAHAM'S FAITH TESTED AND CROWNED

Gen. 22:1-14

A

Severe discipline sudden - bolt from a blue sky -

1. "Tempt" -- "prove"

└ appeal to better part of man hoping he may stand  
└ appeal to worst part of man wishing that he may fall and do wrong.

How could God command a father to kill his son?

Isaac's deliverance was an integral part of the divine plan.

2. How unsurpassably beautiful is the simple story!

Not a syllable about the feelings of father or son -

The pathetic silence -

The slow progress to the dread instant of sacrifice -

The homely preparations for the journey made by Abraham himself -

Only God and himself know the horrible secret -

3. The Elements of the trial -

1. His soul torn asunder by the conflict of fatherly love & obedience to God

How terrible the personal grief - the task laid on him!

He must yield up the dearest treasure at his bidding.

2. It seemed to rend his religion in two -

What of God's earlier promises?

What of the hopes that have shone for years?

With his own hand he is to crush his life's work -

Innocent curiosity of Isaac's boyish questions -

The yearning self-restraint of the father's desperate answer -

The clinging hope that God would answer -

His faith struck a tiny spark which gave a small flicker in the darkness.

He trusted God so implicitly that he was willing to believe apparent im-

possibilities rather than doubt one who had led him through so many dangers

Go straight on the path of clear duty wherever it leads

If it seem to bring us to inaccessible cliffs we shall be sure that

when we get there.....some ledge

If it seem to bring us to some deep and bridgeless stream we shall

find a ford.....

If the mountains seem to draw together & bar our passage

#### 4. The Climax - Faith rewarded -

- 1. Obedience is complete when the inward surrender is complete.
- 2. Faith is rewarded by God's acceptance and approval
- 3. Faith is rewarded by a deeper insight into God's will.

The ram, caught in the thicket, thorn-crowned and substituted for the

victim, taught Abraham and his son that God appointed and provided

a lamb for an offering.

- 4. Faith is rewarded by receiving back the surrendered blessing, made more precious

because it has been laid on the altar -

We never know how sweet our blessings are till we have yielded them to Him -

5. Abraham was rewarded by being allowed to be a faint representation of the yet more wondrous and awful love of the divine Father who for our sakes has surrendered His only-begotten Son whom He loved -

"He that spared not His own son, but delivered him up for us all."

Note the unresisting innocence of the son - and the willing eagerness of the sinless sufferer who chose to die - - His unspeakable gift.

# Abraham's Faith Tested & Crowned. Gen 22:1-18

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{ One great affection -  
One great sorrow -  
One great trial - } — Abram old —  
promises — Isaac — channel

Suddenly — no warning —

"Take now thy son - - - - -

That night —

No record — agonies — struggles — tears — pray —  
Isaac — beloved son —  
Child of promise — offer him up —  
put to the test —

3rd day wood on his shoulders —

Knife — fire — pathos —

"Father you have the - - - - -

"My son, God will provide

altar —

disclosed to the son the truth —  
bound him — took knife —

"Abraham, lay not - - -

Ram in thicket —  
substituted — offering made —

Supreme test —

On Moriah God tried Abram to see if he believed  
in God enough to sacrifice his son —

On Calvary God tries you + me to see if we transfer  
our trust in God to believe that He loves us enough to sacrifice  
His ~~only~~ only son — Love so amazing —

Because Christ died — + - - - - -

A

Hebron - Machpelah -

Supreme test - Isaac ..... On great affection -

One great sorrow -

One great trial -

Picture Abram before tent door at evening near Hebron

Voice - an old friend -

"Take now thy Son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest and .....  
to Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering....."

The command - The obedience

What a night for Abraham - Earth reeling under his feet

Stars falling from the heavens - His only son - The son of promise - a burnt offering

Emotional shock -

A deathblow to all his hopes and expectations - Son of old age

Shock to Abraham as a believer

Hopes all frustrated -

When the day dawned Abram had won his battle -

Jews legend - Since Abraham had prosperity and Isaac he had become selfish  
and prayerless and had forgotten God.

The journey - (Father takes boy to city - (Thrill) ) -

Isaac - wood...loaves...ass...servant

Sarah standing at the tent door -

Mark of pain on face of Abram "are you ill?"

3rd day Mt. Moriah in view -

wood...flint...knife...thongs on Isaac's back

"Father, have you not forgotten something? - wood, fire, knife

Where is the lamb?" "God will provide"

Still hoping -- still believing --

On the mount -- builds altar -

Complete -- How can I give him up?

The child of my old age -

The symbol of the promise

How tell his mother?

How go on to old age without my son?

Hand on shoulder -- "Thou art the lamb" -

Tells him what God had said

Submission of Isaac ---

Could have run away - seized knife --

Opened not his mouth - lay down willingly upon altar - bound with thongs -  
farewell kiss - lifted knife - flashed in sunlight - voice of God -

"Lay not thy hand on the lad - - for now I know that thou fearest God."

Ram caught in thicket

"The Lord will provide - - Rom. 8:32

"Seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me..."



From Moriah one can see Calvary -

Centuries later another procession -

3 condemned criminals - each with his cross

Love held him to the cross

Moriah looked down and forward to the great scene on Calvary, where Christ laid down his life

"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

# The Trial of Abraham - Gen. 22:12 - Q x

Hebron - Machpelah -

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How can I tell her I am to be old & see without my son?

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# I Historical - Abraham's Sacrifice Gen 22 at

1. Divine in its origin -
2. Unexpected in its coming -
3. Severe in its form -
4. Needful in its design -

## II. His Victory -

1. The splendor of it -
  - { Prompt -
  - { Exact -
  - { sincere -
  - { no show -
2. The secret of it -

## III. His Reward -

1. Isaac delivered -
    - Timely - (split second) -
    - Reason for it -
    - The manner of it -
    - The teaching of it -
  2. The blessing confirmed -
    - Promises renewed -
    - a solemn oath -
-

A Abraham's Faith Tested - Gen. 22:1-14

Severe blow - bolt from sky - Test

"Tempt" = appeal to worst hoping he may fall.

"Prove" = " " to best " " " stand -

### Pictures

1. Abraham - prosperous - godly - happy - a son - Isaac -
2. Listening to divine voice - "Take -- son -- offer -- burnt offering"
3. Tragic night - agony - Earth reeling - stars falling -  
His only son - Son of promise - Son of old age -  
Hopes all frustrated - why trust God?
4. A victory won - following night of struggle -  
Early dawn -
5. The tragic journey to Moriah -  
Preparations - His secret - Sarah did not know -  
Wood - Knife - things - Isaac -  
Silence - 3 days - grief - pain on his face -  
Isaac - personal grief -  
3<sup>rd</sup> day - Moriah -  
Innocent questions - self-restraint of father -  
Clinging hope - trudging on -  
"Where is the lamb?" - "God will provide" -
6. On Mt. Moriah -  
Altar built - Hand on shoulder - "You are the lamb?"  
Submission of Isaac - Voice of God - Ram -

C. From Mt. Moriah one can see Calvary -

Procession - 3 crosses -

"while we were yet sinners Christ died for us"

"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all" -

Isa. 53:5,6.

"Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest & go to Moriah; & offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will shew thee".

"Father, you have the fire & I have the wood for the offering, but where is the Lamb" - "My Son, God will provide himself a lamb for the burnt offering" -

"Abraham, lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him, for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me." -

"By faith Abraham when he was tried, offered up Isaac, accounting that God was able to raise him up even from the dead."

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