

# Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

## Genesis 22:1-24

"The Lord Will Provide"— March 12, 2023



### **Introduction**

When we go through trials, we may often think that God should have given us the grace we needed for that trial a week in advance. But [Hebrews 4:16](#) tells us that we can come boldly before God's throne and find grace **in time of need**.

In our times of trials, we often think "How long, Oh Lord?" We wonder where God is and if He even cares. Trials that leave us asking questions like this can pose a threat to our faith. Will we make it? Will we trust God on the other side of the trial?

After reading chapter 22, we may wonder what God is thinking. Some will read this chapter and think that God is a bully, playing a cruel joke on Abraham. What do you see when you read this chapter? If we read it carefully in the context of chapters 12-21, we will see a loving father, a son who trusts his father, and a God who provides. We see God's heart for what it really is.

**The Big Idea:** Trust God in trying times because He provided what we lacked so that we might live.

### **Sermon Outline**

Scene 1 – The Test Vs. 1-10

Scene 2 – The Provision Vs. 11-14

Scene 3 – The Blessing Vs. 15-19

### **Read & Discuss**

#### **1. Read vs. 1-10**

Abraham doesn't know this is a test, but Moses tells us what is going on. We've walked with Abraham since chapter 12, and he has shown remarkable faith. But there have also been times when we've seen him fail to trust God. After 25 years of walking with God, He gives Abraham a single-question test – Do you trust Me?

God fed the children of Israel with manna to test them and do them good. ([Deuteronomy 8:16](#)) When we are tested, it is for our benefit. How does this test benefit Abraham? It would prove the genuineness of his faith. ([1 Peter 1:7](#)) Has there been a time that you can look back on and see how a trial has been to your benefit? As we read this chapter, we may still wonder how God could ask this of Abraham. This chapter could be God's test for you and me in which God is asking, "Do you trust Me?"

God is aware of how excruciating this is for Abraham. Abraham and Sarah have endured 25 years of waiting for Isaac, the fulfillment of the promise. If Abraham goes through with this, the son of promise is gone and our hope of salvation goes up in smoke. Yet Abraham obeys immediately. Have there been times when you felt God leading you to do a hard, impossible task? How did you respond?

It was a three-day journey to Moriah. What kept Abraham going? What was he thinking? We see in verse 5, Abraham tells the two men who accompanied them that they would both go to worship and both come back again. How could he be confident of that? How did Abraham get to this point - ready to kill Isaac yet be confident that they would both return? Abraham was confident of the resurrection. ([Hebrews 11:17-19](#)) Abraham had already experienced God's resurrection power. Sarah was barren her whole life. His body was as good as dead. ([Romans 4:19](#)) Isaac is evidence of God's resurrection power.

The words of [Genesis 18:14](#) must have rung in his mind. When God makes a promise, He is faithful to keep His promise. God will protect Isaac. It was a test with one question - DO you trust Me? Abraham passed. What about you, are there times when you think that things are too hard for God? Can you trust Him with what seems impossible?

**Additional Reading:** Genesis 12

#### **2. Read vs. 11-14**

When you compare this with [2 Chronicles 3:1](#), we see that Mt. Moriah becomes the temple mount where people would offer sacrifices. Year after year, the Israelites would be reminded that God is their Provider.

The ram was sacrificed in place of his son. This is substitutionary atonement. The word "provide" here can also be interpreted as "God sees." God not only provides, He sees. He is not distracted; He cares and sees. Because He sees, He also provides what we need when we need it. ([Ps. 23:1](#))

Our greatest need is to be reconciled to our Creator. Sin causes God to be opposed to us. That's the bad news. Thankfully, God in His mercy sees our greatest need. Genesis 22 is a signpost pointing us to Jesus Who is the only beloved Son of God. Jesus would walk up Golgotha's hill carrying a cross to be crucified for us. That is the good news. ([John 3:16](#)) Jesus did this willingly. ([John 10:16](#)) He laid down His life for us. ([John 1:29](#))

What do you see now when you read Genesis 22? Do you see God's provision for sinners like you and me? God's love is on display in Genesis 22. He is trustworthy. It's not enough to know this, you must respond. You must turn from sin and self-reliance and trust in Christ alone.

### **3. Read vs. 15-19**

Biblical faith is not just a mere acknowledgement that something is true. It is evidenced by obedience. If you don't show your faith by obeying, your faith is dead. ([James 2:17](#)) Abraham was justified by faith in chapter 15, but here, his faith is demonstrated.

God reminds Abraham of His promise and adds something. The offspring will "possess the gate of their enemies." This means that they will defeat the enemy. This would have been encouraging to the Israelites who are standing at the border of Canaan, ready to go into the land. God sees, and because He sees what you need, He will provide what you need for His promise to be fulfilled.

Do you need this encouragement today? Are you in a situation where you feel that God has left you waiting and wondering what He is doing?" Can you trust God? Do you wonder if God will give you what you need? Paul responds in [Romans 8:32](#). If God did not spare that which was of greatest value to Him, His own Son, then we can be confident of His heart. He will give you what you need. We don't need to doubt. We are more than conquerors. ([Romans 8:37](#)) We will possess the gate of our enemy because Jesus did. He conquered death. We will conquer death.

When Abraham passed the test, his relationship with God deepened. Trials may not be removed, but God blesses with His presence. ([Ps. 23:4](#)) How have trying circumstances deepened your relationship with God?

We take nothing with us when we die. ([Psalm 49:16-19](#)) This side of heaven, time catches up with all of us. Death will take away every gain that we thought the world offers us. As a believer, we have already experienced God's resurrection power. ([Ephesians 2:1-7](#)) With what is God calling you to trust Him?

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at

<b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Luke 5:12-32</a> "Jesus Goes to the Outcast"
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