

The Blessing: A Study in Genesis 12-36
Lesson 5 – Abraham is Tested
Genesis 22-23

I. Abraham’s Supreme Test – Genesis 22

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4).

- A. God’s call to leave and go where He would show (Genesis 12:1)
- B. The fear of man – Pharaoh (Genesis 12:10)
- C. The separation from Lot – trusting God in the choice of land (Genesis 13:1-18)
- D. The war of the kings and the test of the plunder (Genesis 14)
- E. The Promise believed and the cutting of the Covenant (Genesis 15:6)
- F. The fear of man – Abimelech (Genesis 20:1-2)
- G. The release of Ishmael (Genesis 21:9-14)
- H. Offer Isaac as a burnt offering (Genesis 22)

Abraham believed and God worked in him to bring about his spiritual maturity. His tests developed endurance which had its perfect result – Abraham lacked nothing! (James 1:2-4)

Reflect over your own life. What are some of the trials or tests that you have experienced? Reflecting on our own responses to trials enables us to grant grace to others who are being tested.

“Here it was that God first revealed the necessity for a human victim to expiate sin, for as it was man that had sinned, it must be by man, and not by sacrifice of beasts, that Divine justice would be satisfied” (Arthur Pink, *Gleanings in Genesis*, p. 221).

II. The Foreshadowing of Christ

Abraham	Christ
Sacrifice required by God	The wages of sin is death (Romans 3:23)
Isaac carried the wood	Christ carried His cross
Bound to the altar	Nailed to the altar of the cross
God provided the ram	Jesus paid our debt
Three-day journey to the mountain	Three days in the grave
Abraham and Isaac returned	Jesus rose from the grave and ascended to the Father

Isaac was never alone; his father was with him. Jesus was forsaken by the Father that we might never be forsaken by God the Father.

III. God's Provision – Genesis 22:20-24

The first mention of Rebekah.

A. The Death of Sarah – Genesis 23

Sarah lived to be 127 years old. She died when Isaac was 37. The only property Abraham owned was the field of the burial cave which he purchased from Ephron in Hebron in the land of Canaan.

B. Sarah's Eulogy – Hebrews 11:11; 1 Peter 3:6

"A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance"
(Ecclesiastes 3:4).

First mention of tears in the Bible – "Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep" (Genesis 23:2).

For what are you trusting God? What test are you currently facing?

C. We are descendants of Abraham – called to walk by faith

"Faith is dependence upon God and this God-dependence only begins when self-dependence ends... Faith is the organ of the spirit that is able to 'see'" (Manley Beasley, *Faith Workbook*, p. 1).

"Faith is not careless of time, but more mindful of eternity. Faith does not underrate the power of man, but she magnifies omnipotence. Faith is not callous of present pain, but she weighs it against future joy. Against ill-gotten gains, she puts eternal treasure; against human hate the recompense of reward; against the weariness of the course, the crown of amaranth; against the tears of winter sowing, the shoutings of the autumn sheaves; against the inconvenience of the tent, the permanent city" (*The Works of F. B. Meyer*, Loc. 14951).

"All these died in faith [guided and sustained by it], without receiving the [tangible fulfillment of God's] promises, only having seen (anticipated) them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. Now those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. And if they had been thinking of that country from which they departed [as their true home], they would have had [a continuing] opportunity to return. But the truth is that they were longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. For that reason God is not ashamed [of them or] to be called their God [even to be surnamed their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob]; for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:13-16 AMP).