

Men-Sharpen-Men
July 7, 2017
Scripture: Abraham's Test

Scripture: Genesis 22: 1-19

Questions:

- 1) How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? How old was Abraham when Ishmael was born?
- 2) What is a burnt offering and does it have significance in this story?
- 3) What was Abraham thinking when God called upon him and asked him to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering? Did he question God's motives? How did Abraham know that it was God speaking to him? Did he know that God would not take his son?
- 4) Did Isaac know that he was about to be sacrificed? Why did Abraham not tell Isaac that he was about to be sacrificed?
- 5) What was God's purpose in asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?
- 6) Genesis 22: 1-2 indicates that it was God's voice speaking directly with Abraham, while Genesis 22:11-12 and Genesis 22:15 indicate that the angel of the Lord calls out to Abraham. Is this important and does it make a difference?
- 7) Fast forward to 2017 and assume you are the main character in this story: Describe the promise that God has made to you. What would God ask you to sacrifice? Would you do it?
- 8) What is the lesson to be learned from this event?

Genesis 22: 1-19

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram^[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring^[b] all nations on earth will be blessed,^[c] because you have obeyed me."

¹⁹ Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.