

Genesis – 21-22

Genesis 21 tells of the long-awaited fulfillment of the promise of a son and the removal of a threat to God's purpose for the child.

Genesis 22 tells of God's test of Abraham: would he give the son back to God?

Genesis 21:1-7

The Lord's Word fulfilled. Notice the reminders of what has been "said" "promised" "spoken." Abraham was 100 years old. Isaac's name "He laughs" is echoed by Sarah, as she says that God has "made laughter" for her in which all will join.

21:9-13

Compare this crisis, and God's ruling on it, to the earlier crisis. Who creates the conflict here? Did Abraham act without God's instruction as he had before? Did Abraham plead for Ishmael?

God assures Abraham He will watch over Ishmael, and He does – Genesis 21:17-20.

22:1-2

"God tested Abraham." Why? What is the nature of the test?

God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but in what ways is Abraham being asked to sacrifice himself?

"Test" here is "nasa" a different word from the word used in of putting God to the test in, for example, Exodus 17:2, Numbers 14:22, Deuteronomy 6:16 when God disapproves of His people for testing Him. When God tests His people, He determines the quality of their faithfulness. When human beings put God to the test, they demonstrate a lack of faith. In both situations, the appropriate response from the human side is faithful obedience, because we fear God, even when God's will makes no sense to us.

22:3-6

How does Abraham respond? Does he plead with God, as he had done in the past?

It's a three day journey, estimated to be 50-60 miles. He did not procrastinate, but got up early in the morning, and worked methodically, inexorably, to the location of the sacrifice.

What does Abraham tell his servants about the purpose for going the mountain?

What does Abraham tell Isaac about the sacrifice?

22:7-14

Abraham obeyed. At the point of his taking the knife in his hand, God calls to him, and Abraham replies "Here I am," just as he had in verse 1. What does that say about the depth of his obedience?

Read Job 1:21-22

God supplied the sacrifice Himself. Read Mark 10:45

The place was called "The Lord Will Provide" or "Jehovah-Jireh." The site of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac in the "land of Moriah" is the same referred to in 2 Chronicles as Mount Moriah, the site of David's Temple in Jerusalem. (It is now occupied by the Dome of the Rock.) What is the sacrifice required of God's worshippers? The same as required of Abraham.

22:15-18

"Because you have not withheld your son, your only son...through you all nations will be blessed" Compare to John 3:16, Romans 8:32