

JESUS IN GENESIS SEASON 2

JESUS IN GENESIS - SEASON 2: GENESIS 22:1-24

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE - WEEK OF JUNE 20, 2021

Introduction:

- God is peremptory. God does not allow for refusal or denial of His will and commands. If we refuse or deny His will or commands there are consequences. He demands that we believe in Him and love Him, to believe in Him is to love Him, and to love Him is to obey Him.
- True faith isn't exercised when God demands things that are easy to do or when we pick and choose from the Scriptures how we're going to obey, but when we do things for God that are difficult and require us to set our own desires aside for His.
- We arise at a point in the narrative about Abraham's life where he faces his greatest test.

1. The Test Given (1-11)

- v1: The narrator makes it clear that this was a test for Abraham, but to Abraham, while he was living out these events, it wasn't so clear.
- God tests us to grow our faith. Satan tempts us to destroy our faith. A single event can be used by either side. Christians should stay faithful to God instead of looking at their circumstances and thinking that it is impossible for Him to rescue His children from them.
- A lot of Christians audit Christianity, meaning they pay attention to God when what He says and commands is interesting and beneficial, but stop listening when what He says does not sound important at the moment. Others are guilty of treating it like a pass/fail class, by seeking to do the minimum to get by or get into heaven, like Lot. Both methods lack a true, loving relationship with God.
- God tests Abraham because He wants him to love his Heavenly Father more than his son.
- Gen 22:1 and 12:1 serve as book ends to the narrative about Abraham's faith, where, in both places, God calls Abraham to leave beloved family in order to follow Him. Both times Abraham passes the test, and builds and altar to worship God.
- v3: The promptness with which Abraham prepares for the journey shows that he is ready to complete the assignment. He doesn't say no, or "I'll obey if you make me understand." God has truly become God in Abraham's life. God is the "non-negotiable" in Abraham's life, and is aware that He will sometimes call us to things we don't like or are the opposite of what we would expect.
- God's command seems cruel. Oftentimes, in the short run, God's commands seem cruel, but in the long run, prove to be loving and beneficial for His children. Fathers should take heed to this. God wants Abraham to transfer his faith to Isaac by showing him that he loves God, his Father, more than him, his son.
- Hebrews 11:17-19 tells us that Abraham knew that the God who created him and saved him had the power to raise Isaac from the dead. Abraham's hope was the character and power of God. He kept going and trusting without understanding the "why."
- Faith is, "I don't get it or necessarily like it, but I do it, because the God who created me and saved me told me to do it.
- v6-9: Isaac carrying the wood on his back points us to Christ carrying the cross on his back. Isaac was at an age where he could have successfully run away or wrestle off his father, but he willingly entrusted himself to his father's intentions. Christ similarly entrusted himself to his Father's intentions when he went to the cross.

2. The Test Passed (12-14)

- "Fear" is used here, as "love" could have been used. Fearing and loving God are opposite sides of the same coin.
- The key phrase is "instead of his son." The ram dies and the son goes free, which is the first blatant presentation of substitutionary atonement. The foundation upon which all morality and commitment to God is grounded upon is in God's redemptive work for us. Before He makes commands on our lives, He saves us and redeems us from the punishment due for our sin.
- Substitutionary atonement is embedded in the sacrificial laws of the OT. Isaiah 53:6 directs us to the suffering servant, who would be eligible to bear the propitiation for our sins.

3. The Test Rewarded (15-18)

- God swears to Himself because He is the highest being. Nobody has higher authority than Him.
- v16-18: Teaches us that Abraham receives the promises of God's covenant because he claimed them by faith. The dynamic of his salvation and the way by which he received God's promises might be best explained by thinking of someone being given a payment to do work before they have started the work.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that God is peremptory

Heart

To trust God and His promises when He calls us to difficult tasks

Hands

To claim the promises of God by faith while working out our salvation with fear and trembling

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids' Summer Nights: Registration is now open for kids ages 4-11 to attend our free, weeklong VBS program this summer! You can register your child(ren) or sign up to volunteer [here](#).

The next **Baptism Seminar** will take place on July 11th. The meeting will be held after 2nd service, at ~1PM. Meet Pastor Andy at the Welcome Center at that time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- At the very second that a person repents and sin and turns to Christ all of their sins are forgiven, however, such a moment also begins all the work and the marching orders from Christ.
- Why did God ask that Abraham complete this cruel task? It doesn't make sense apart from looking to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God is prophetically showing his people in the Old Testament what He is going to do. God is going to walk up Mount Calvary with his son with a knife in His hand. He's not just going to allow him to be sacrificed/crucified, but He Himself is going to crucify His son. He is telling His audience a couple thousand of years before Christ's life that He Himself is going to endure the great cruelty of the cross that we deserve in order to show His great love for us.
- When Jesus got to the cross, there was no substitute sacrifice for him. Why? Because he is the substitute. Jesus is the one who obeyed and submitted perfectly to the will the Father.
- Abraham passed the test of faith, but he still needed substitutionary atonement in Christ.
- We have an advantage that Abraham didn't have in that we look back on these events, and know the details of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- When this episode ended, Abraham probably would not have traded this experience away for anything. Pascal, *Pensees*: "There is some pleasure in being on board a ship battered by the storms when one is certain of not perishing."
- v20-24: What matters is that Rebekah would go on to marry Isaac, who did take on the same faith as his father.
- Closing verses: Matthew 10:37-39 and 19:27-30.

Read Genesis 22:1-24

1. How did God test Abraham in this passage?
2. **Read Hebrews 11:17-19.** What do these verses teach us about the way Abraham understood this test?
3. Why does God test His children?
4. At one point in the sermon, Pastor Jan said, "God has truly become God in Abraham's life." What does this mean?
5. What is God calling you to place on the altar in order to faithfully follow Him? Are you willing to do it?
6. What has been the result when you've given up things that you've really valued or desired for God?
7. What is notable about Abraham's response to God's instructions in verse three?
8. How does this passage point us to Jesus Christ?
9. Can someone take a moment to explain the concept of substitutionary atonement? Where is this depicted in the passage?
10. Did you learn anything new about faith from this passage?