

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

Lifelong Surrender

To God

Genesis 22:1-18

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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 14 (OT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

A. Abraham's Ten Tests

- 1. Family Test** – Would Abraham leave his family and go to a new land as God commanded (Gen. 12)? **Passed!**
- 2. Fellowship Test** with Lot – Would Abraham let Lot have first choice of the land and trust God with where he would be (Gen. 13)? **Passed!**
- 3. Fight Test** – Lot was living in Sodom; could Abraham trust the Lord to recover Lot or would he need to start a fight? (Gen. 14)? **Passed!**
- 4. Fortune Test** – The King of Sodom wanted to contribute large sums of money to Abraham. Would he trust that God would supply his needs or go against God and take the king's money (Gen. 14)? **Passed!**
- 5. Famine Test** – Would Abraham stay in the land where the famine was, wait on the Lord and trust Him or take matters into his own hands (Gen. 14)? **Failed!**
- 6. Fatherhood Exam** – Abraham was told he would have a son; would he patiently wait on the Lord to fulfill His Word or take things into his own hands and produce a son with Hagar (Gen. 16)? **Flunked!**
- 7. & 8. Fear Exams** – In Gerar and Egypt, would Abraham lie about Sarah and how they were related and risk losing her (Gen. 12 and 20)? **Failed Twice!**
- 9. Farewell Test** – Would Abraham be willing to let Hagar and Ishmael depart and let the Lord take care of them (Gen. 21)? **Passed!**
- 10. The Final Exam** – Would Abraham sacrifice his only begotten and much beloved son, Isaac (Gen. 22)? **Passed!**

B. Lifelong Surrender to God

1. God Seeks Our Lifelong Surrender.

Genesis 22:1, NASB95 - ¹ Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham...

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. - Jim Elliot, *Personal Journal entry*, Oct. 28, 1949

One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is lifelong can only be surrendered in a lifetime. The Christian life is a process of yielding all of myself that I know to all of God that I know.

- Jim Elliot, *Shadow of the Almighty*, p. 91

2. Our Lifelong Surrender is Shown in Our Obedience.

Genesis 22:3, NASB95 - ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning...

I once asked a young soldier, "If I give you a command, when will you obey?" The soldier replied, "Sir, I will obey before I even understand." - Gen. George S. Patton, *War as I Knew It*, Dec. 7, 1945

3. God Blesses Lifelong Surrender (and Obedience).

Genesis 22:14, NASB95 - ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide [HEB: Jehovah-Jireh יְהוָה יִרְאֶה lit., the Lord sees what needs to be done and He take care of it], as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

C. An Altar Call of the Heart

God's Purpose—to bring you to lifelong surrender.
God's Proving—your obedience to difficult commands.
God's Provision—His blessings for the surrendered life.

- 1. Surrender:** What is God asking you to surrender today?
- 2. Steps:** What steps of obedience have you delayed?
- 3. Supply:** What blessings are you missing because your heart is not fully surrendered to God and His way?