

Hope in Times of Testing

Genesis 22: 1-9

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**Big Idea: Remembering God's promises gives us hope in difficult times.****God Tests Abraham**

The Promises Given to Abraham

## The 8 Tests of Abraham

*"Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible."* – Warren Wiersbe

What emotions do you feel when being tested?

Principle: Remembering God's promises help us to be obedient

**Abraham's Obedience**

There is no hesitation

## Isaac's Participation

Principle: Remembering God's promises gives us confidence to do the hard work of obedience

## Isaac's Submission

Isaac asks a question &amp; Abraham's response

**God Provides**

Abraham/Isaac	God The Father/Jesus
Abraham offered his son, his one and only son	God gave his Son, His one and only Son
Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice	Jesus carried the cross for the sacrifice
Isaac was willing to be sacrificed	Jesus was willing to be sacrificed
God provided a substitute sacrificial ram	Jesus is the sacrificial lamb
Abraham found hope in God's being faithful to fulfill his promises	Jesus is the hope that all of God's promises will be fulfilled.
Hebrews 11:19 - He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.	2 Corinthians 1:20 - For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him. Therefore, through him we also say "Amen" to the glory of God.

Principle: Remembering God's promises leads us to worship God

*"Faith does not demand explanations; faith rests on promises."* – Warren Wiersbe

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# THE REDELL FAMILY

SERVING CHRIST WITH  
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# Packing for Macedonia Fall 2003

- RON AND LISA
- BRENDAN (1)



# Summer 2025

- RON AND LISA
- KALINA
- BRENDAN & CAROLINE
- MACIE & NATHAN



# North Macedonia: Where in the World?

Similar Size: Vermont

Population: 1.8 million (↓ 9.2% since 2021)

Capital: Skopje approx. 625K

Unemployment: 11.5%

Avg. Monthly Income: \$830 (net)

Ethnicity:

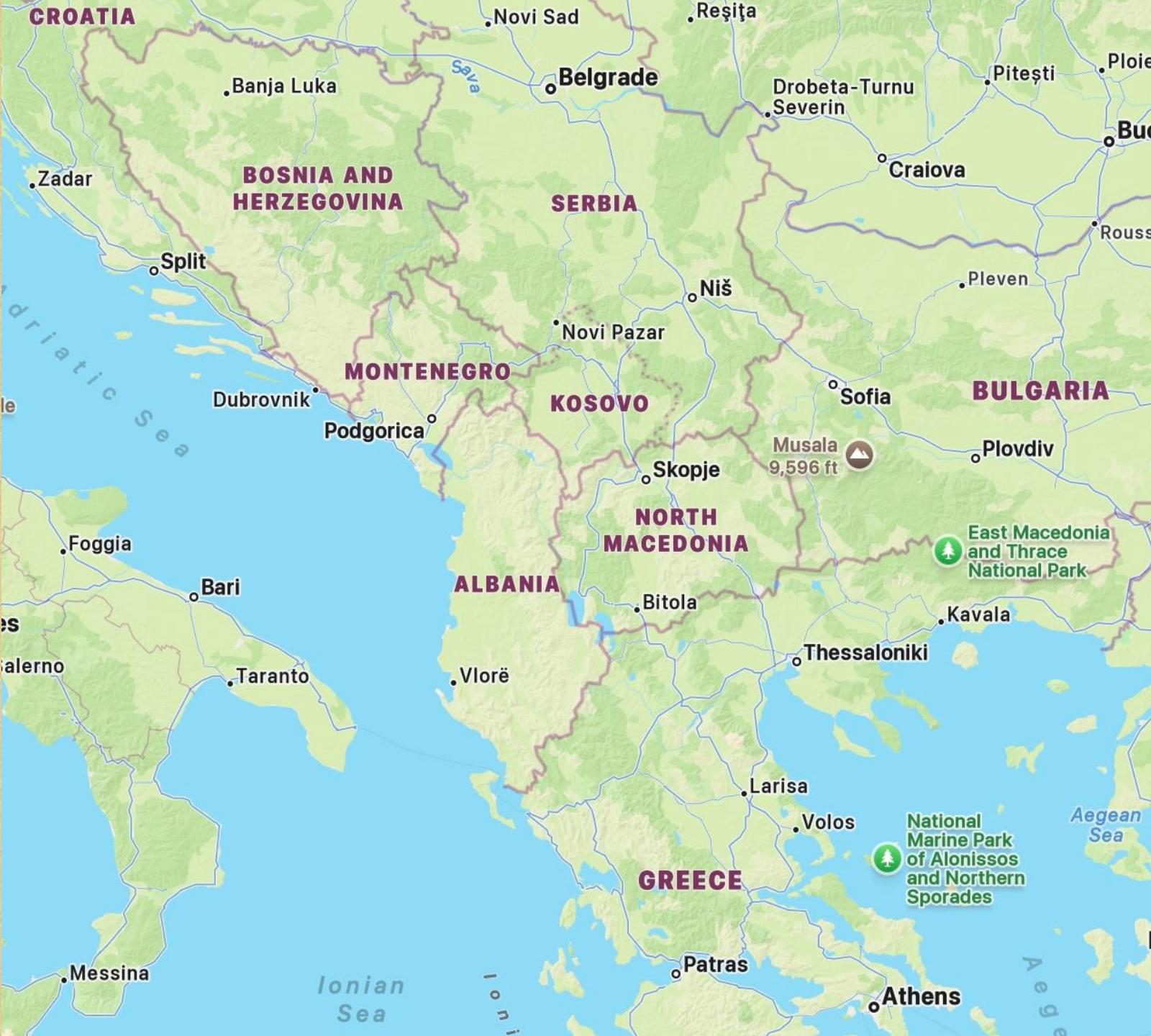
Macedonian (58%)

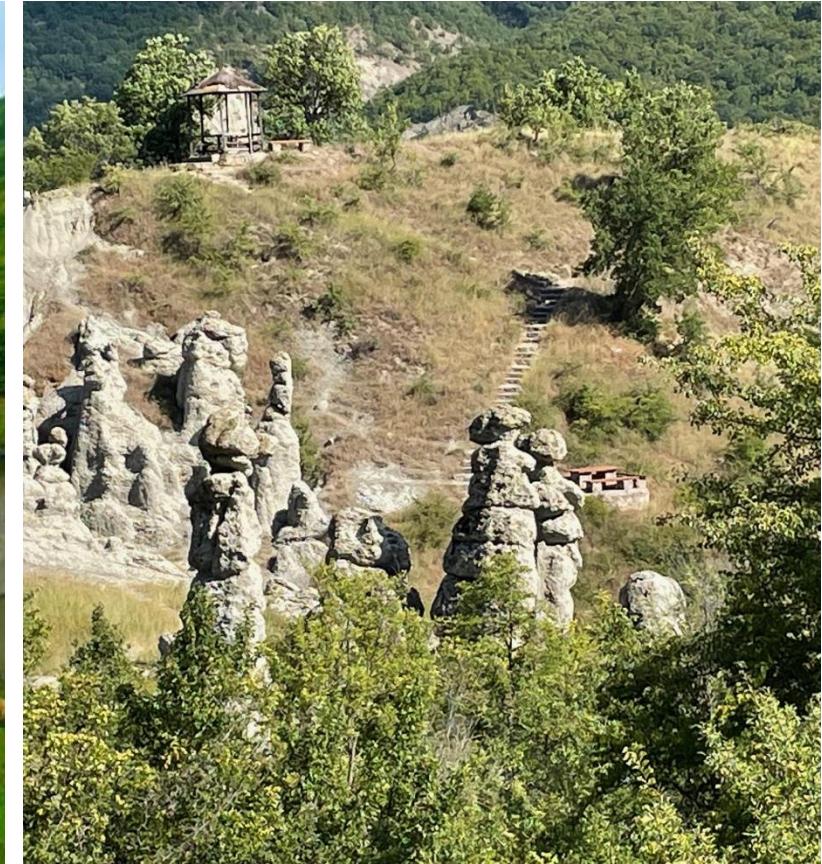
Albanian (24%)

Turk (4%)

Roma (3%)

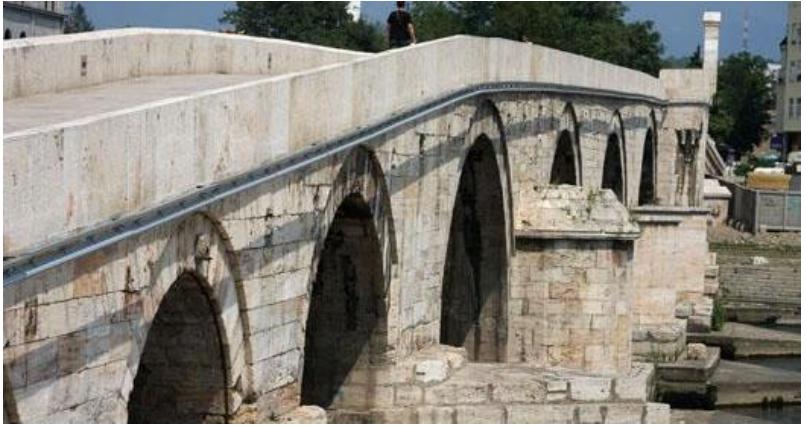
Other (11%)



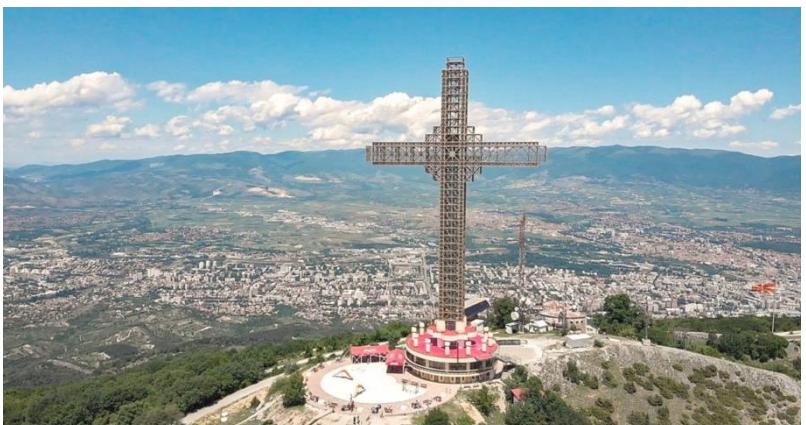


# North Macedonia: Landscapes

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Rich History and Culture



# Orthodox Tradition



Why?

Why give up your life  
and move to a “land  
that God will show  
you?”



**Hope:** The confidence that, by integrating God's redemptive acts in the past with trusting human responses in the present, the faithful will experience the fullness of God's goodness both in the present and in the future.

Biblical faith rests on the trustworthiness of God to keep His promises.

Ben Craver, "[Hope](#)," in *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*, ed. John D. Barry et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

# Abraham:

## The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22: 1-4)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!”  
“Here I am,” he answered.

<sup>2</sup> “Take your son,” he said, “your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

<sup>3</sup> So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about.

<sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

# The Call of Abraham Genesis 12:1-3 (CSB)

The LORD said to Abram:

Go from your land,

your relatives,

and your father's house

to the land that I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation,

I will bless you,

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,

I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,

and all the peoples on earth

will be blessed through you.

# The 8 Tests of Abraham

- The Family Test – he had to leave his loved ones and move to a new country
- The Famine Test – he went down to Egypt
- The Fellowship Test – he separated from Lot
- The Fight Test – he defeated the Mesopotamian kings
- The Fortune Test – he said no to Sodom's wealth
- The Fatherhood Test – Sarah's impatience with God
- The Farewell Test – he sent Ishmael away
- The Filial Test – he was to sacrifice his son.

*"Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible."* – Warren Wiersbe

Moriah

From *ra'ah* and *Yah*

- Seen or chosen of  
Yahweh

# Abraham offers Isaac



High resolution paid maps include detailed captions [headwatersresources.org](http://headwatersresources.org)  
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Courtesy of Headwaters Christian Resources

Moriah

From *ra'ah* and *Yah*

- Seen or chosen of Yahweh
- 2 Chronicles 3:1

Then Solomon began to build the LORD's temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the site David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

# Abraham offers Isaac

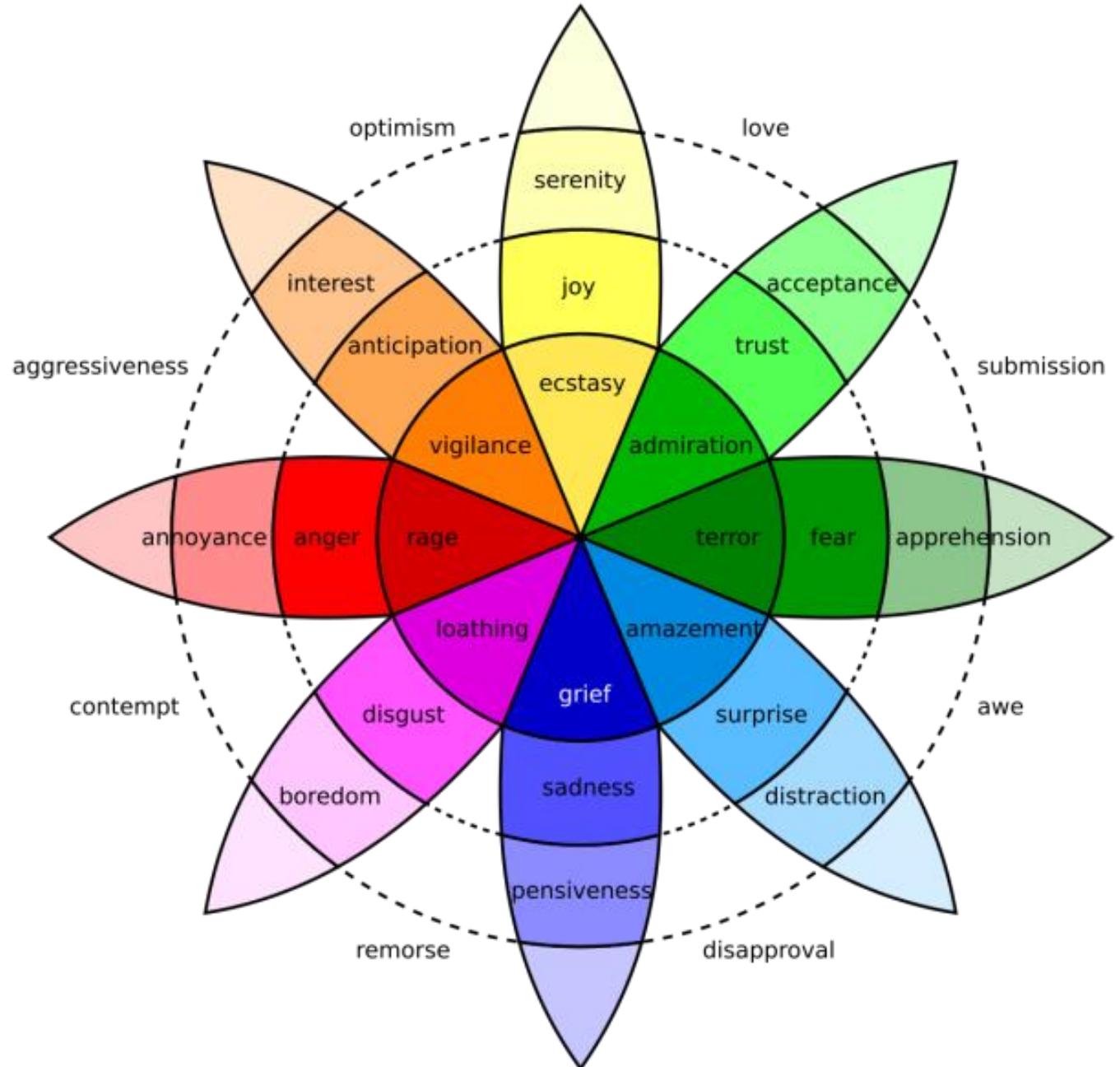


What are emotions some of the emotions that Abraham might be experiencing?

- Grief
- Sadness
- Fear
- Anger
- Love

Do you think he is experiencing any of these emotions?

- Optimism
- Anticipation
- Trust
- Hope



Courtesy of Psychology Today

## **Abraham: The Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:5-6)**

<sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we’ll come back to you.”

<sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together.



## Abraham:

### The Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:7-11)

<sup>7</sup> Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, “My father.”

And he replied, “Here I am, my son.”

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

<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, “God himself will provide<sup>[a]</sup> the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”  
Then the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac<sup>[b]</sup> and placed him on the altar on top of the wood.

<sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

## **Abraham:**

### **The Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:11-19)**

**11** But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” He replied, “Here I am.”

**12** Then he said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me.” **13** Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So, Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. **14** And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said, “It will be provided on the LORD’s mountain.”

## **Abraham: The Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:11-19)**

<sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, “By myself I have sworn,” this is the LORD’s declaration: “Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the city gates of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed my command.”

<sup>19</sup> Abraham went back to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beer-sheba. And Abraham settled in Beer-sheba.

# North Macedonian Language

“Зашто Бог толку го  
воздъби светот, што Го  
даде Својот Единороден  
Син, та секој што верува во  
Него да не загине, туку да  
има вечен живот.”

Јован 3:16

“For God loved the world in  
this way: He gave his one  
and only Son, so that  
everyone who believes in  
him will not perish but have  
eternal life.”

John 3:16 (CSB)

# Comparison

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## Abraham/Isaac

Abraham offered his son, his one and only son

Isaac was willing to be sacrificed

Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice

God provided a substitute ram

Abraham found hope in God's being faithful to fulfill his promises

Hebrews 11:19 - He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.

## God the Father/Jesus

God gave his Son, his one and only Son

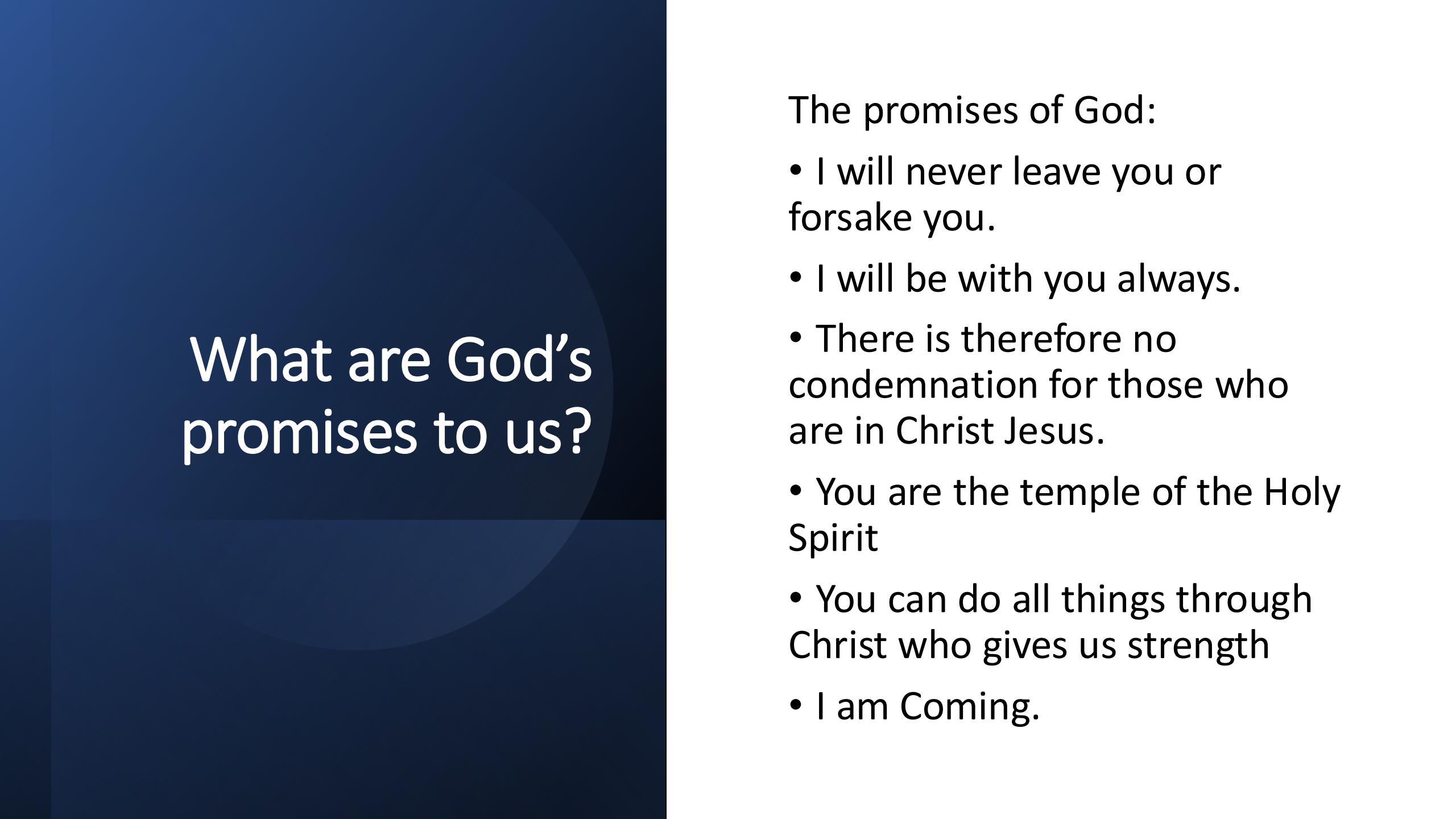
Jesus was willing to be sacrificed

Jesus carried the cross for the sacrifice

Jesus is the substitute lamb

Jesus is the hope that all of God's promises will be fulfilled.

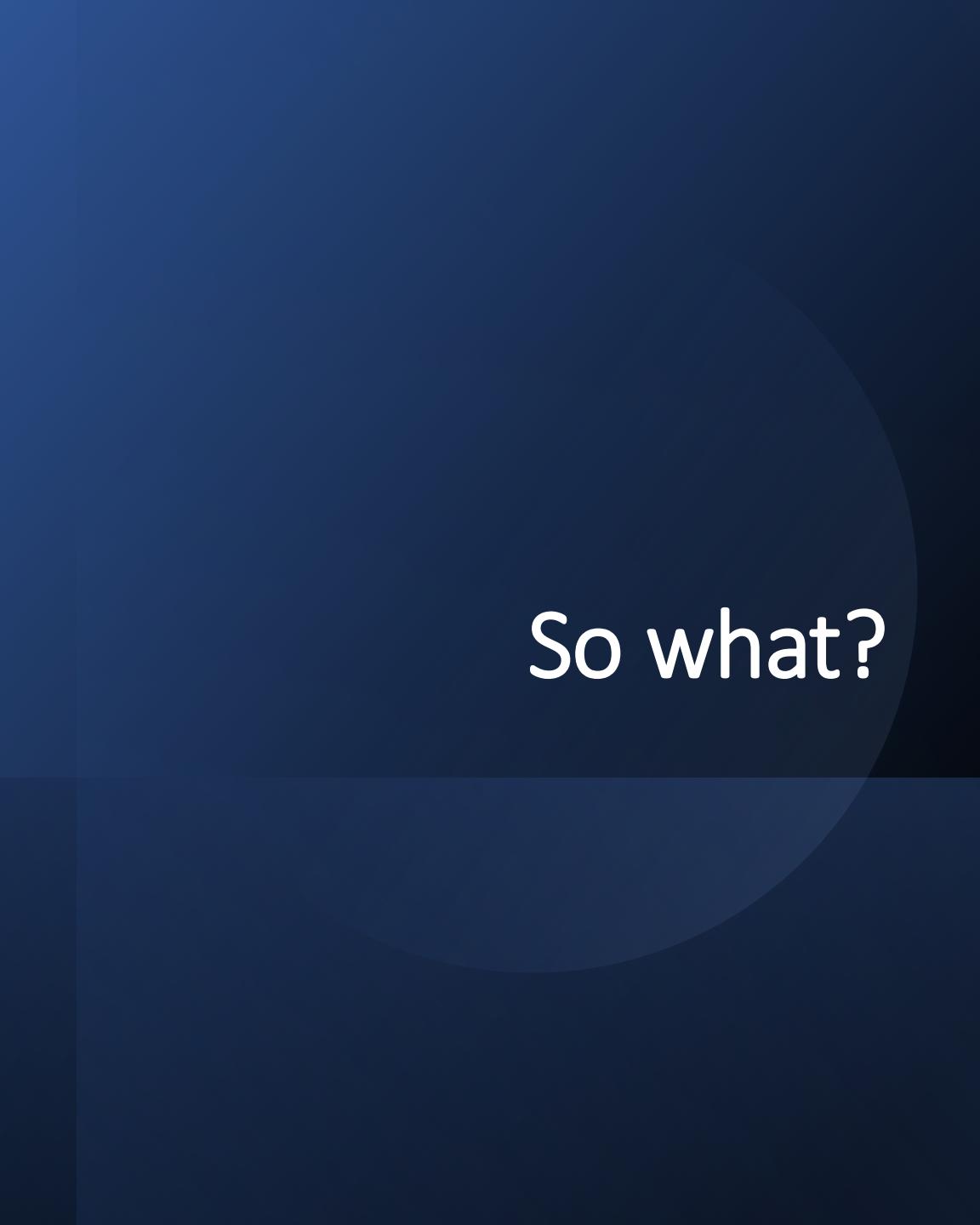
2 Corinthians 1:20 - For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him. Therefore, through him we also say "Amen" to the glory of God.



# What are God's promises to us?

The promises of God:

- I will never leave you or forsake you.
- I will be with you always.
- There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- You are the temple of the Holy Spirit
- You can do all things through Christ who gives us strength
- I am Coming.



So what?

- How does this give us hope?
- How do we show that *the Gospel changes everything?*



## Worship & Education

- **Preaching**
- **Church Partnerships**
- **Biblical/Theological Education**



# Discipleship

- Bible/Worldview Classes
- Women's Ministry
- One-on-One/Small Groups





## Building Relationships

- PTA
- English/German Classes
- Neighbors
- Archery

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the **hope** of glory. <sup>28</sup> We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.

Colossians 1:24-29 (CSB)



## Hope in Times of Testing

### 3 Principles:

- 1) Remembering God's promises helps us to be obedient
- 2) Remembering God's promises gives us confidence to do the hard work of obedience
- 3) Remembering God's promises leads us to worship God

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What is God asking of you?