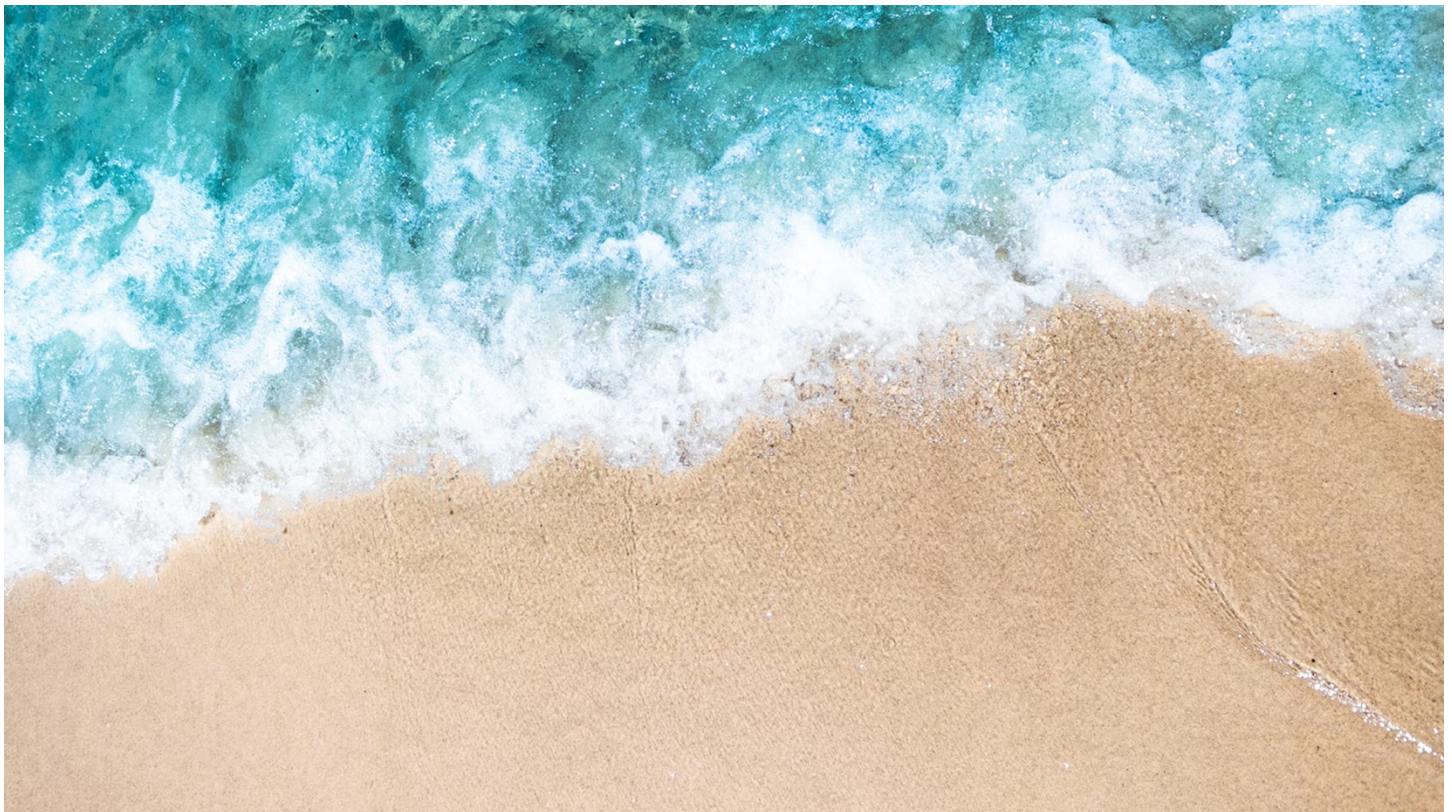


Turn in you Bibles tonight to Genesis 22. We are about to finish up our study of this part of Genesis where it follows Abraham's life. As we focused on Abraham we were seeking to bring out and to show the divine character of God. We saw God's love, mercy, holiness, longsuffering, or patience, and his justice.

God chose Abraham to use him to be the father of a great nation, in which, God would show all these attributes of his character. God affirmed this promise several times with Abraham by having Abraham to look to the sky and number the stars.



God would tell Abraham to count the sand upon the seashore if he could. Showing Abraham, he was going to do a miraculous thing through Abraham.

Before that could happen there had to be several things that needed to happen in Abraham's life.

First, Abraham had to be obedient and show he believed God. We saw evidence of this as God would remind Abraham of the promise he made to Abraham, and it was said that of Abraham these words from Genesis 15:6.

Genesis 15:6

⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Along this walk of obedience with the Lord, Abraham was tested and tempted several times. He passed a few and he failed a few. Out of all those tests though, Abraham was going to face the ultimate test of his life. Let's read verses 1 to 4 of Genesis 22.

Genesis 22:1-4

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

In our walk of faith with the Lord, we are never too old to grow and learn. The Lord will test each of us in our life upon this earth. Though we may be tested in ways that are similar, I also believe that God will test us uniquely to who we are and what God wants to do in our life.

I do want to say that there is a difference between being tested by God and a temptation. First, God does not tempt. Look at this verse from James 1:13:

James 1:13

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

Because God is Holy, he cannot and will not tempt us to sin. Where does the temptation come from? First Satan but look at the screens again and see verses 14 and 15 of James 1.

James 1:14

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

It is our own fleshly lusts that Satan will bring the temptations against. Temptations come from the flesh and will bear sinful results. Sin may bring immediate and temporary satisfaction, but then we have to live with the consequences with that sin. Tests or trials as we call them, come from God to purify us, another level of maturity, strengthen our faith, and reveal his faithfulness and his sovereignty and bring him glory.

We saw two examples of giving in to temptation in Abraham and Sarah's life. When they arrived in the land of Canaan what was going on in the land. I'll give you a hint, the word starts with an "F" and ends with an "amine." That's right a famine! Instead of staying put and trusting the Lord, they go down to Egypt, Abraham lies about Sarah being his sister and causes his wife to be put in a very precarious situation.

How about when God promised Abraham and Sarah a son. What was the test? Wait! Did they? No! Sarah brought Hagar to Abraham as a wife, she bore Abraham a son, Ishmael, and even today the nations that came from Ishmael's ancestry are enemies of the nation of Israel.

Our giving in to temptation sometimes bring consequences we have to live with the rest of our lives. Even with that thought we can have joy and we can move beyond the consequence as we seek forgiveness from God. David said in Psalm 51 verses 10 to 12. ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*** God will!

In 1 John 1:9 what does it say?

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

May we be able to distinguish between a temptation from Satan and a test or trial that comes from God that is to work in us as Peter says in 1 Peter 1:6-7.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith --- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire -- - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Do you think Abraham was grieved at what he just heard from God? Take you son, Abraham, your only son, and sacrifice him. We know that God came to him either late in the day or in the night, because the verses we just read, says that Abraham rose early the next morning and he prepared everything to take Isaac to the area of Moriah and sacrifice him as God had commanded.

What was his night like, a restless night's sleep, if sleep at all! Did he tell Sarah? What was that like? How about a night of prayer before the Lord seeking his will and strength to obey? We don't know, it doesn't say. We just know Abraham was obedient!

What we are going to see from here is some similarities between Abraham, Isaac and God the Father and Jesus. So much so that some would say, and it has been taught as such that Isaac is a type of Christ or a Typology of Christ. Let's define this. I am going to use the definition from gotquestions.org.

Typology is a special kind of symbolism. (A symbol is something that represents something else.) When we say that someone is a type of Christ, we are saying that a person in the Old Testament behaves in a way that corresponds to Jesus' character or actions in the New Testament. ***Gotquestions.org***

We saw the first of this in verse 2 when God tells Abraham:

Genesis 1:2

² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

What can we compare that to? For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son! Or begotten son, John 3:16. In both verses, the Hebrew word, ***yahid***, and the Greek word, ***monogenes***: meaning only, only begotten. You may say Abraham had another son, Ishmael. You would be correct! Remember how Ishmael was born. Ishmael was not the son of promise, he was born out of temptation and sin. Isaac is the promised son and is the only son of Abraham and Sarah.

It is through this lineage that another promised son would be born, and his name would not mean laughter. For his name will be Jesus, Immanuel, God with us! The prophet Isaiah prophesied about the coming of this son in Isaiah Chapter 9 about 750 years earlier.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

We also see that Abraham has already made up his mind and put into his heart he was going to obey the Lord and sacrifice Isaac. It was a three-day journey to Moriah and for those three days, Isaac was as good as dead to Abraham. For three days and nights Jesus was dead to God the Father in the tomb after God sacrificed his son on the cross of Golgotha.

As we saw in verse 2, God told Abraham to go to the land of Moriah and there he would be led to Mount Moriah. There is quite a bit of significance behind Mount Moriah.

1. In 2 Samuel 24 after King David takes a census of the people. He wasn't supposed to. After the census was taken, David was convicted and he repented of his sin but again, there are consequences to sin. The Lord told David, through the prophet Gad, that you will be punished. You have three options.
 - 3 years of famine, 3 months of fleeing from your enemies, 3 days of pestilence.

David chose the 3 days of pestilence and 70,000 men died from a plague. King David saw the angel of the Lord at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, ready to destroy Jerusalem and he cried out to God to stop because he had sinned, not the people. God relented and again through the prophet Gad, David was told to go to the threshing floor and build an altar and make a sacrifice to the Lord.

David ends up buying the threshing floor and builds an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. The same area where Abraham and Isaac are now in Genesis 22. There is more but we don't have time to share about this. 2 Samuel Chapter 24, good stuff, go read it.

2. Mount Moriah is where Jerusalem, the holy city is located.
3. Mount Moriah is where Solomon would build the temple upon the very spot that Abraham and Isaac will build an altar. The Temple stood until it was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman general Titus, son of the Roman Emperor Vespasian.

Think of the thousands, I would say millions of lambs that were sacrificed for the repentance of sin at the Temple on this very area that Abraham and Isaac would soon be standing.

To digress for a moment, what is built on this area right now?



Muslim Mosque, The Dome of the Rock! I chose this picture because it shows the western wall of the temple, which is the only thing standing after the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

As we read in verse 4, Abraham has now seen the place that God has led Abraham, Isaac, and his two servants to. Let's read verses 5 to 10.

Genesis 22:5-10

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

3 days of travel and now Abraham looks up at the mountain that is before him. There it is staring him in the face. I got on this kick about watching documentaries about Mt. Everest. Look at this picture:



Mount Everest stands at 29,032 feet, which is the equivalent of 5 ½ miles, above sea level. Pastor Kevin shared this a few years back, but at 26,000 feet you enter into what is called the Death Zone. There is not enough oxygen at that level to sustain life or sustain it for very long.

Your body literally begins the death process because all your organs are not getting the sufficient oxygen to survive. Your thinking can become extremely skewed. You can make irrational decisions. At best they say you can stay in the Death Zone from 16 to 20 hours aided by pure oxygen.

Did Mount Moriah look like a Mount Everest to Abraham? You know, sometimes, in our lives, we can look at circumstances in our lives as a Mount Everest. We actually call those times valley's but to get out of the valley what do we have to do? We have to climb the mountain! How do we climb the mountain? One step at a time!

We may at times feel like we can't catch our breath, or we don't know what to do. May I make a suggestion?

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus.

You may say, Dale, Pastor Dale, I am way past just being anxious. May I remind us of this.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies

I am not saying we don't ever seek counseling, but please may it be with someone that is going to use God's Word. Tribulation will come, trials will come, tests will come but we can have peace, comfort, and yes even joy in those times as Jesus, who will never leave us nor forsake us walks right alongside us or carries us.

What is Abraham thinking as he looks up that mountain? In Hebrews we do see what was going through his mind.

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

At this point, looking up that mountain, as I said earlier, Abraham had already made up his mind to leave it all to God. What did Abraham tell the two servants that were with them? Look at verse 5.

Genesis 22:5

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."

Abraham had faith in the promise that God gave he and Sarah, that Isaac would be the son who would be the beginning of this great nation. Abraham had faith in God that can take the seemingly impossible result and make the possible happen.

May I remind us that not only was Abraham showing obedience and great faith, but so was Isaac. Isaac was showing faith because we just read that Isaac asked his father, "Where is the sacrifice? We have the wood, the fire, but not the lamb!" Abraham told Isaac; the Lord will provide the lamb my son.

Also, we again see some similarities between Isaac and Jesus. Where was the wood for the altar placed? On Isaac's back! Just as Jesus carried his cross, or the cross beam up to Golgotha.

Another similarity we see here is the willingness of Isaac. There had to be that discussion of, Isaac, you are the sacrifice. The altar was built and then Abraham bound his son and laid him on the altar. The word boy, used in these verses is: na'ar. Meaning Isaac is a young man. He carried the wood on his back up the mountain. Abraham had to be around 120 years old or older at this time. Isaac, a strong, young man.

However, Abraham bound Isaac. Isaac was willing and Abraham placed him on the altar. Isaac was submissive to his father and ultimately God. What did Jesus say about his life?

John 10:18

¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

God the Father put Jesus on the cross! Jesus took that cross, took the beating, took the nails, took the mocking, willingly, in being obedience to the Father to be the sacrifice that was needed for our salvation.

Here we are!



Isaac is on the altar; Abraham has now reached for the knife. Is it raised? Is the knife coming down? What happens! Let's read verses 11 to 14.

Genesis 22:11-14

¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Hand raised! Abraham! Abraham! Think about it again from your circumstance. You are seeking the Lord; you are desiring an answer and God steps in and says your name and he tells you it is going to be okay. I have you! The peace, the comfort, the joy that comes when the presence of God is felt when he speaks into whatever the situation in your life that you are going through.

What do you think Abraham's response looked like? Abraham, Abraham! Yes, Lord! What is it this time Lord, I'm kind of busy here! I don't think so! It had to be one of total relief, excitement! Do you think he grabbed Isaac and held him, maybe even gave him some fatherly kisses!

Abraham showed that he had surrendered all to the Lord and he was holding on to nothing from this world.

Abraham looks up and there is a ram caught by his horns in a thicket nearby and he sacrifices that lamb for the offering. Another example of Jesus! This ram was a substitutionary sacrifice for Isaac. This was a prophetic description of Jesus being the substitutionary sacrifice for all of mankind.

Abraham named that place on Mount Moriah, Yehovah ra'a! You may have heard it spoken of as Jehovahjireh. Yes, the Lord provided that day but the meaning is this: The Lord seen, or will be seen! This is the spot the Temple would be built and there would be millions of lambs sacrificed in this location for the Israelite nation to show their faith, their obedience, as they brought their sacrifices of worship in repentance for their sins.

Because of Abraham's obedience and faith, the angel of the Lord called out to Abraham again and affirms the promise, the covenant that God had made with Abraham.

Genesis 22:15-23

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son. ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba. ²⁰ Now after these things it was told to Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: ²¹ Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, ²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." ²³ (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. ²⁴ Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.



The God of Abraham, Jehovahjireh, will keep his promise and will multiply the offspring of Abraham. It all now begins with Isaac, the Lord will provide and through the nation of Israel the Lord will show himself holy, powerful, merciful, just, and he will be seen. But, before that can happen, Isaac needs a bride.

After all that happened on the mountain, Abraham, Isaac, and the two servants went back to Beersheba. As they are living in Beersheba, information is shared with Abraham about his family.

We read in verse 23 there is a specific mention of a woman named Rebekah. Though we won't get to Isaac and Rebekah in this study, in Chapter 24 we see that Abraham sends a servant out to their kindred to find a wife for Isaac, and Rebekah is chosen. They have two sons Esau and Jacob and from them come two nations.

From Esau a nation of pagans. Nations that would become enemies of the nation of Israel. From Jacob, the promised nation, there would be twelve sons born to Jacob. From the fourth son, Judah, another promised son would come.

You see, we saw in the verses we just read that within the promise to Abraham it says that all nations will be blessed through Abraham. How are all nations going to be blessed through the nation of Israel?

What we saw on this mountain top are so many things. What we saw was prophetic and a picture to Abraham and for us of the Messiah, the promised one, the anointed one that would be coming to be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

There is another father, and it is God the Father, and he looks at his one and only son. As God the Father looks at his son, he sees his very image and his very likeness. Holy, all knowing, all powerful, merciful, loving, and just. He tells him, son, I love you, but I also love the people I created. Because of their sin they are separated from us, and I need to provide a way back to us.

I need a sacrifice for the sins of a wicked, evil people. Son, it is you! You have done nothing wrong, you are sinless. As this sacrifice, you are going to see, and you are going to experience some of the most heinous, wicked things ever. Son, I am going to have to separate myself from you for a time. Will you go?

The son says, yes father, I will do it for you and for them, for I love them too!

This son is brought to a mountain that we know as Mount Calvary. Wood is strapped to his back in the shape of a cross. This son is hung there by having 3 spikes nailed into his body, two in his wrists and one through his feet. There was a hand raised again but this time there would be no substitutionary sacrifice caught in a thicket, for this son is the substitutionary sacrifice. This son takes on and feels every bit of God's wrath upon sin as he hung on that cross and he would die. But in three days he would rise again in power and with all authority!

Because of this son's obedience he would also be presented with a bride. This bride would be made up of all those that would repent and put their faith in him as their Lord, as their Savior. This bride would be named, The Church!

This son's name is Jesus Christ! The promised one, the anointed one, the one and only name under heaven by which all can be saved. Because of this son, we can look at the valley's we are in or the mountains that may be before us and with faith in the promises of God we can walk in with power, comfort, and with our Lord by our side!