



When We've Come through the Flames

Genesis 22:15-24

Trials can lead us to unexpected blessing(s).

Verses 15-18:

Text Message:

- When Abraham came through the flames of his trial, God confronted him with blessing (and what a blessing it was)!
- 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.
Genesis 22:17a
- This verse is a prime example of how difficult it is sometimes to translate from ancient Hebrew

into English. In the Hebrew, the words “bless” and “multiply” are doubled, so a more literal reading would be:

I will **ble**ss** ble**ss**** you, and I will **mu**lti**ply mu**lti**ply** your offspring... Genesis 22:17a

- Although odd to our ears, a noun (Isaiah 26:3) or verb is repeated, or doubled, when the Hebrew language emphasized something with the strongest of emphasis.
- English translations highlight the certainty of the blessing, while the Hebrew emphasizes the magnitude of it.
- One caveat here: God’s blessing follows our obedience!
- We cannot expect blessing in willful disobedience!
- It’s not that we “earn” God’s blessing, but through obedience we show ourselves ready to receive it!

Trials can lead us to unexpected life adjustments.

Verse 19:

Text Message:

- As we saw last week, the Jewish sages would ponder not only what was in the text, but what was not. See if you can find something missing

in this verse:

¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

- *Where is Isaac?*
- Ancient rabbis suggested that the absence of Isaac in this verse pointed to a separation in the relationship between Abraham and Isaac.
- What we do know from Scripture:
 - 1) Abraham and Isaac are not seen together until Abraham's burial in Genesis 25.
 - 2) After this test, Abraham lived at Beersheba (Verse 19).
 - 3) Isaac is dwelling in Beer-lahai-roi (Genesis 24:62), which is approximately 50 miles from where Abraham lived.
 - 4) Beer-lahai-roi, "Well of the Living One Who Sees me," was named by Abraham's rejected wife Hagar (Genesis 16).

Is it possible Isaac felt a kindred spirit with her?
- Regardless, there does seem to be a significant life adjustment for both Abraham and Isaac after this event.
- Trials can lead us to this- unexpected adjustments, a "new normal;" even a redefining of life.

Trials can lead us to the awe and wonder of God.

Verses 20-24:

Text Message:

- There is a contrast between Abraham and his brother in these verses: While Abraham sacrifices his “only son” (Verse 2), his brother’s life is filled with blessing! *Why?*
- There will always be mystery in trials: Knowledge leads us to answers and explanations.
Mystery leads us to awe and silence of God.

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