

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM – WHEN GOD SAYS “LET GO”!

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THE FINAL EXAM

Genesis 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Abraham had waited all his life for God to give him “the” son that was promised to him. The son that would be given the inheritance. That son was Isaac, and Abraham loved his son more than his own life. You know the feeling. You might say he treasured his son!

Treasures

Keeping Abraham and Isaac in mind, let’s talk about treasures. They fall naturally into four categories according to Charles R. Swindoll in his book called “Abraham”

- † **Possessions** – tangible, valuable things. Worldly goods. A diamond ring, a watch.
- † **Vocation** – you job or career. It has sustained you and brought you status in life. Many ministers have turned their vocation into a priceless treasure.
- † **Dreams** – Our dreams keep us going through the rough times in life. Olympians who have stood on the winner’s box and were awarded a medal, began with a dream. Many have sacrificed too much to accomplish their dreams.
- † **Relationships** – it can be a son, daughter, parent, spouse,

friend. Any relationship can become a treasure that you sacrifice too much for.

It is the last point on which we pause, relationships. Have no doubt that Abraham treasured his son, Isaac.

In my prayer life I have confessed that my relationship to my wife is one of great love. We are soul mates. I tell her often, “I love you with all my heart”. Many times, I preface that statement with “After God”. It’s understood that God is always first. I learned that truth from God’s Word and I understand from it that I have my wife and family, it is because of Him and that they belong to Him.

(Genesis 22:2) Then He said, "Take now 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."

This verse always troubled me in my heart. My head understands the Theology behind it, but my heart says, “wait a second”, “his only Son”? by “only” I mean his heir.

Let’s look at it from God’s viewpoint. He is Omniscience. He knows everything before it happens. God often teaches us valuable lesson by allowing us to experience and showing us things that relate to His will, His purposes. In typology, Abraham is an example of the heavenly

Father, Isaac is a type of Christ in that he was offered as a sacrifice. Note that God sent His angel to stop Abraham. This is probably one of the top ten most important passages in the Bible, foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins.

“He didn’t understand the situation, but he knew the righteous character of his God, and he believed the promises that he had made”.¹

Genesis 22:3-8 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. (4) Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. (5) And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." (6) So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. (7) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (8) And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a

¹ Abraham. Page 201 by Charles R. Swindoll

burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Here are a several interesting thoughts to ponder:

1. Isaac was in his thirties at this time. Possibly about 30 to 33 years old. Christ Jesus was approximately 33 when He was crucified.
2. Abraham laid the wood on his son to carry where they would perform the sacrifice. Jesus bore the wooden cross on his back.
3. The went to Mount Moriah which is the same mountain ridge where Jesus was crucified. Perhaps at the location of the Dome of the Rock.
4. Isaac was obedient to his Father. There was no rebellion recorded in the scriptures when Abraham was ready to offer him as a sacrifice. Jesus said in **Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."**
5. Abraham and Isaac trusted that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. Abraham was given a ram at that time, because Jesus would become the Lamb of God later on in fulfillment of prophecy.
6. Abraham believed that if he sacrificed his son, God would raise him from the dead. **Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, (18) of whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE**

CALLED," (19) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Genesis 22:10-12 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. (11) But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." (12) And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Jesus, God's only begotten Son, was raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 6:14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Romans 6:9-11 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. (10) For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. (11) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The title Jehovah-jireh is one of God's great names in the Old Testament, and it literally means, "the Lord will provide." Does it really pay to serve God? Just for the record, God had already provided Abraham with the following "fringe benefits."

- a. eternal salvation (Gen. 15:6)
- b. guidance (Gen. 12:1)
- c. courage (Gen. 14:15)
- d. spiritual blessings (Gen. 14:19)
- e. earthly needs (Gen. 13:2)

- f. social security (Gen. 15:15)
 - g. forgiveness (Gen. 20:17)
 - h. a son in his old age (Gen. 21:3)
 - i. continued protection (Gen. 15:1)
 - j. the promise of a heavenly city (Heb. 11:10)
10. Before leaving this chapter, let us notice some striking similarities between Abraham the father and God the Father:
- a. Both had a beloved son (Mt. 3:17; 17:5). Both were born miraculously (Lk. 1:35).
 - b. Both had willing sons—that is, sons that were willing to be offered up (Jn. 10:18).
 - c. Both offered up their sons (Jn. 3:16; both on the same spot).
 - d. Both received their sons back with great joy (Ps. 24:7-10). (Note: Some believe this Psalm refers to the Lord Jesus' coming back to the glory of heaven after his death and resurrection.)
 - e. Both made careful preparations for their sons' weddings. In Genesis 24, Abraham sends his trusted servant out to find a bride for Isaac. In the New Testament, we read, of course, of the Heavenly Father's preparation for his Son's wedding (Mt. 22:1, 2).²

² Willmington's Guide to the Bible