

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Genesis 23:1-20

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

1. The Path of Faith, 12:1-20
2. The Price of Faith, 13:1-18
3. The Power of Faith, 14:1-24
4. The Pledge of Faith, 15:1-21
5. The Pawning of Faith, 16:1-16
6. The Potential of Faith, 17:1-27
7. The Perplexing of Faith, 18:1-33
8. The Position of Faith, 19:1-38
9. The Perils of Faith, 20:1-18
10. The Prize of Faith, 21:1-34
11. The Proof of Faith, 22:1-24
 - a. The Test of Faith, 22:1-13

❖ The word “tempt” is clarified in Heb. 11:17:

Heb. 11:17 **By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,**

❖ Abraham was directed to go to “the land of Moriah” (not Mt. Moriah). Why?

Gen. 20:2 And he said, **Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest,** and get thee into **the land of Moriah**; and offer him **there** for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Abraham offers Isaac



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<https://headwatersresources.org/map-abraham-offers-isaac/>

Moriah = "chosen by Jehovah"

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h4179/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

❖ On the third day, Abraham saw “the place” to make the offering.

Gen. 22:4 Then on the third day **Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.**

5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and **I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.**

❖ Abraham's faith was tested by sacrificing what he loved, but with the promise from God that he expected to return to the servants with Isaac – "...and **I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.**"

❖ Abraham believed the promises of God regarding Isaac.
Gen. 12:1, 15:5

Gen. 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and **thou shalt call his name Isaac**: and **I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.** ...

21 But **my covenant will I establish with Isaac**, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Gen. 21:12; Rom. 9:7-9, 4:13-14, 16, 20-21; Gal. 3:14, 16, 22, 29, 4:28; Heb. 10:23

Tonight, we will continue to observe “*the Proof of Faith.*”

❖ Where we left off last week, Abraham’s faith was tried, and the Lord provided “himself a lamb.”

22:8 And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Jn. 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

❖ The test, or trying, of Abraham's faith is an example for all believers, to know and trust the promises of God – the way to turn trials of life into triumphs is to “trust and obey.”

b. The Triumph of Faith, 22:14-19

Gen. 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovahjireh**: as it is said *to this day*, **In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.**

15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, **thine only son**:

17 That in blessing **I will** bless thee, and in multiplying **I will** multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

❖ Abraham named the location to glorify God.

From יְהוָה and רָאָה → יְהוָה יִרְאֶה

Jehovah-jireh = "Jehovah will see (to it)"

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h3070/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

Jehovah-jireh

Jehovah will see; i.e., will provide, the name given by Abraham to the scene of his offering up the ram which was caught in the thicket on Mount Moriah.

The expression used in Genesis 22:14 , "in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen," has been regarded as equivalent to the saying, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity."

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/jehovah-jireh/>

- ❖ When Abraham was in desperate need, God saw it and provided a remedy.
- ❖ Believers need to apply the same principle when facing life's challenges:

Mat 6:7 But **when ye pray**, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: **for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.**

Rom. 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 **He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all**, how shall he not with him **also freely give us all things?**

❖ Knowing that the God of Abraham never changes, believers should be encouraged to walk by faith!

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me. ...

19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- ❖ Beer-lahai-roi = "well of the Living One seeing me" is another place to be reminded of God's intervention and deliverance from perilous challenges for Hagar and Ishmael.
- ❖ The naming of the location a specific title signifying God's blessing, would also serve as a perpetual reminder of God's intervening in life.

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.

❖ The Lord reminded Abraham of His covenant and the promised blessings in the future.

22:17 That in blessing **I will** bless thee, and in multiplying **I will** multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

❖ An extraordinary event in the lives of Abraham and Isaac may be unknown and underestimated by others in the same proximity.

22:19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

- ❖ Do not be disappointed when others may not share your joy and thanksgiving to God for all of His provisions!

Psa. 121:1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2 **My help cometh from the LORD**, which made heaven and earth.

- ❖ After this amazing test of faith, the incident was over and it was time to go home – “...and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.”

c. The Trail to Faith, 22:20-24

Gen. 22:20 And it came to pass after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, Behold, Milcah, she hath also born children unto thy brother Nahor;

21 Huz his firstborn, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram,

22 And Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel.


23 And **Bethuel begat Rebekah**: these eight Milcah did bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

24 And his concubine, whose name *was* Reumah, she bare also Tebah, and Gaham, and Thahash, and Maachah.

- ❖ Life goes on. People die, yet another generation is born. Rebekah is born and Sarah's replacement is revealed. The "trail of faith" continues.

Gen. 24:15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, **Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah**, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

- ❖ God's perfect will should be the primary focus of life – keep walking by faith.



Faith without works is not
faith at all, but a simple
lack of obedience to God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

quote fancy

Summary

- ❖ For about 40 years, God patiently brought Abraham through life, strengthening his faith in preparation for the greatest test of his faith that was confronting all of God's promises to him – the offering of his ONLY son, Isaac.

Gen. 20:2 And he said, **Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest**, and get thee into **the land of Moriah**; and offer him **there** for a burnt offering **upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.**

Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and **he went out, not knowing whither he went.**

Gen. 22:4 Then on the third day **Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.**

Jn. 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and **he saw it**, and was glad.

❖ Believers will face many testings of faith in a lifetime.

1 Chron. 29:17; Psa. 17:3, 26:2, 139:23, Jer. 17:10, 11:20, 12:3, 20:12; Jas. 1:2-4, 12-15; Mt. 10:37-39;
Rom. 12:1

❖ After engaging in the great challenge of love and faith, Abraham went home to live out his life, walking by faith as “the friend of God.”

Jas. 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God**, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and **he was called the Friend of God**.

❖ From the place of offering, Gen. 22:9, there is no other mention of Isaac until the end of Gen. 24:62-67. The “only beloved son” has been offered, then is not mentioned again until His bride has been procured.

❖ Isaac was “in the field at the eventide.”

Jn. 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: **the night cometh**, when no man can work.

❖ Isaac represents the Lord Jesus Christ and Rebekah represents “the Bride of Christ.”

Gen. 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and **she became his wife; and he loved her**: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

Mt. 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

38 **Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest**, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Conclusion

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.