

Genesis 22:1

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Look with me at “these things” which took place in Abraham’s life prior to being tested by God. In **Genesis 12:1-3**, the Abrahamic Covenant is instituted. Abraham is promised a son in **Genesis 15:4**. The first recorded deed is documented in **Genesis 17:7-8**, where Abraham is given the Covenant of Circumcision. In **Genesis 20:3**, Abimelech seeks to take Sarah as his own. Yet we are told in **Genesis 21:2**, that the fulfillment of Isaac’s birth took place at the ‘appointed time’. Then Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away in **Genesis 21:12**. Finally, Abraham makes a peace covenant with Abimelech at Beersheba, which means, “well of the oath”. It is interesting to see that the Lord appeared at four different times to people at Beersheba; God appeared to Hagar, Isaac, Jacob, and Elijah. So many of us would believe that many of the things which took place prior to **Genesis 22**, could very well be taken as a test, in and of themselves. Yet, even waiting twenty-five years for the fulfillment of a son, was not the test. The truth is that everything prior to **Genesis 22**, was simply preparation for Abraham’s test. So many times we want the promises and blessings of God’s Word, but we disqualify ourselves by prematurely disengaging from the process that God has us in. Over and over again you can meet people who are offended with the Lord; because God didn’t meet them the way they wanted Him to, or even when they wanted to be met. What we fail to recognize, is that the process of preparation, is what is going to enable us to succeed in our test. Much the same way an athlete will train for perhaps months or years, for an event which will take only a few minutes to compete. Were so conscious about what we believe is justice, or fairness, or even what is appropriate, that we miss the simple joy of trusting our Lord!

Talk about justice, fairness, or appropriateness; would any of those words describe what God commands Abraham to do, with the sacrifice of Isaac? If any of us limits our relationship or obedience to God, based on our own scales of right and wrong, then more times than not, we will miss what the Lord is trying to do in our lives. Abraham didn’t argue with God, or complain and whine about how difficult his task was. Abraham simply chose to obey! Please look with me at **Hebrews 11:17-19**, ¹⁷ **By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; ¹⁸ it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."** ¹⁹ **He considered that God is able to raise *men* even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.** Church, Abraham’s faith was so great in his God, that he believed that the Lord “WOULD” take Isaac once he had been offered sacrificially, and bring Isaac back to life.

What about you dear saint? Do you trust and believe in your God, even when it looks like everything you love is about to die? Or, when the Lord is asking you to lay down the one thing that is the most precious to you? The greatest freedom in this life comes only after one learns to fully surrender to the Lord. I exhort you today, to stop fighting the process, and to allow the Lord to prepare “you”, for your greatest test.