

**LEARN TO ENJOY GOD'S TESTING AS  
GOD WILL PROVIDE!  
GENESIS CHAPTER 22:1-14**

2-2 The Patriarchs: Abraham and Isaac

Date: c. 2100-1950 BC

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**ILLUSTRATION**

How is gold purified by fire? Before gold can be used for jewelry or any other purpose, all impurities must be burned out. The gold was placed in a big crucible, thrust into the fire, and heated until it melted. As the gold became liquid, the impurities rose to the top and were skimmed off.



**ABRAHAM INSTRUCTED! V1-5**

Our faith in God needs to always grow and on occasions for this growth to occur, God will test the faithfulness of His servants. Thank goodness that the announcement in **v1** sets out to cushion our hearts with what is about to follow! Indeed, how much more painful would the story be for us, if it wasn't cushioned by the knowledge that Abraham's faith was going to be tested by God!

Here Abraham's faith is literally going to be tested to its very limits! Around this time if we understand that the term “boy” used in verse 5 + 12, is the same Hebrew word that is used throughout chapter 21:17–20 (5 times) in relation to Ishmael (16 years old) then here, it places Isaac around the same age (16 years old) and Abraham around 116 years old!

***The test by God also alerts us to the truth that growth in faith can involve testing by God!***

Abraham is told by God what to do and where to go. He is told to offer Isaac his only son as a burnt offering on one of the mountains in the land of Moriah. We later learn through Scripture that the “land of Moriah” is where Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles Ch3:1)!

***As I have said before, there are three times in Abraham's life that the Bible says he arose early in the morning—and he knew on all three of those days that what he had to do would not be pleasant.*** The first is **Genesis Ch19:27** where Moses tells us that Abraham “went early in the morning” to a special location where he would survey the

destroyed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The second is **Genesis Ch21:14** where Abraham “*rose early in the morning*” and with great sadness led Hagar and Ishmael out of his house to appease Sarah. The third is here in **Genesis Ch22:3**, when Abraham “*rose early in the morning*” to take Isaac to Mount Moriah with the intention of sacrificing him to God. Abraham, no doubt, arose early to some beautiful mornings and pleasant activities. But his only early mornings specifically mentioned in the Bible are the three above. How brutal they must have been! How tempting it must have been for him to keep rolling over and sleeping just a little longer. But instead of hiding under the covers, he rose up early and met the challenges of the day, why? ***Because of what the Lord had promised him!***

From where Abraham is living to the “land of Moriah” it is about 45 Miles and a 3 day (v4) journey. Abraham also takes two of his young men along.

### **ABRAHAM OBEYS! V6-10**

Are there any similarities between Christ being crucified on the same mountain and Isaac's journey?

1. V9 – It is on the mountain of the temple in Jerusalem! ***Both Isaac and Jesus are going to be sacrificed on the same mountain!***
2. V6 – the wood being laid on Isaac, presumably his back. For some reason, whether or not it is the steepness of the mountain, or the trek in some way not being suitable for the donkey (v3 + v5), as the wood that Abraham cut in preparation for the burnt offering (v3), is transferred from the donkey to Isaac! ***Isaac has to carry the wood, just like Jesus!***
3. V9 – Abraham built the altar, and he bound Isaac. Isaac remains silent! ***Both Jesus and Isaac remained silent!***
4. V2 + V12 – Isaac is Abraham's “only son”. ***Both Isaac and Jesus, were known as “your only son”!***

### **ABRAHAM ACTS! V11-14**

***V12 - Abraham passes God's test with flying colours, As God declares “.... now I know that you fear God ....”. But what is meant by the word “fear?”***

1. For the unbeliever, the fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God (***Luke Ch12:5; Hebrews Ch10:31***).
2. For the believer, the fear of God is something much different, the believer's fear is reverence of God. ***Hebrews Ch12:28-29*** is a good description of this: “Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”
3. ***This reverence and awe are exactly what the fear of God means for Christians. This is the motivating factor for us to surrender to the Creator of the Universe.***

***Proverbs 1:7*** declares, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.” Until we understand who God is and develop a reverential fear of Him, we cannot have true wisdom. True wisdom comes only from understanding who God is and that He is holy, just, and righteous.

***Deuteronomy Ch10:12, 20-21*** says, “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him and by his name you shall swear. He is

your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.”

***The fear of God is the basis for our walking in His ways, serving Him, and, yes, loving Him.***

***Believers are not to be scared of God.*** We have no reason to be scared of Him. We have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (***Romans Ch8:38-39***). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (***Hebrews Ch13:5***). Fearing God means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live. The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshipping Him in awe.

Abraham shows incredible faith by being obedient (v5) and knowing that God would provide (8)! And God does provide!

***V13 – There is a ram! And the place was called by Abraham “THE LORD WILL PROVIDE” and around 2000 years after Abraham and around 2000 years ago for us, God the Provider, provided for us in the form of Jesus Christ!***

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians Ch5:21).

### **APPLICATION!**

1. As you realise, that Abraham took his one and only beloved son to offer as a sacrifice on the Mount of Moriah, modern Jerusalem, where Solomon built the Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> Chron Ch3:1), what are your thoughts?
2. What does Hebrews Ch11:17-19 say about Abraham? Look back at Gen Ch22:5, what do these verses reveal about Abraham's faith?
3. What is God asking of you to trust in Him for?