

LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU!
GENESIS CH22:15-24

ILLUSTRATION

There is always an “afterwards” to the test! I'm looking forward to just under 5 weeks time! It will be a test! Cooking everything on Christmas Day! The planning, preparation and cooking can take ages on Christmas Day, but I love cooking, especially on Christmas Day! You cannot just “rock up” and cook in our house on Christmas Day, expecting certain ingredients to be there! You have to plan, prepare and then cook! The turkey can take about 4 hours, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes, roast carrots, sprouts, gammon usually can take about 3 hours, cranberry sauce, bacon from covering the turkey, parsnips and swede! Awesome! The reward of that planning, preparation and cooking is fantastic!

NEW UNDERSTANDING! CH22:5

There is always an “afterwards” to the test! How did Abraham see and understand his test from God?

Answer - Ch22:5 – As worship! Abraham saw things in a new way with a new understanding! Abraham wanted to please God's heart through trusting and obeying Him!

There is always an “***afterwards***” to the tests of life, Scripture says “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” - ***Hebrews Ch12:11***; “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you” - ***1st Peter Ch5:10***). ***There is always an “afterwards” to the test!***

NEW ASSURANCES! V15-19

On no less than 8 occasions, God makes the same promise to Abraham, regarding the land, his descendants and being a blessing:

1. ***Gen Ch12:1*** “Now the Lord said to Abram 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that ***I will*** show you.”
2. ***Gen Ch12:2*** “And ***I will*** make of you a great nation, and ***I will*** bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a ***blessing***.”
3. ***Gen Ch12:3*** “***I will*** bless those who ***bless*** you, and him who dishonours you ***I will*** curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be ***blessed***.”
4. ***Gen Ch12:7*** “To your offspring ***I will*** give this land”.
5. ***Gen Ch13:15*** “For all the land that you see ***I will*** give to you and your offspring forever.”
6. ***Gen Ch15:7*** - And He said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to ***give you*** this land to possess.”
7. ***Gen Ch15:18*** “On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your offspring ***I give*** this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.’”
8. ***Gen Ch17:7-8*** “***I will*** establish my covenant between me and you and your

offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And **I will** give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and **I will** be their God.”

Here, after Abraham's successful passing of God's test (Ch22:12), Abraham is given new assurances from God, but this time its different! An assurance being “**a positive declaration intended to give confidence**”, as God wants Abraham to grow in confidence in relation to trusting God.

For the first time in Scripture, God swears an oath by His own name! The Book of Hebrews says in relation to this “For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no-one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying 'Surely **I will** bless you and multiply you.' And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise (Hebrews Ch6:13-15).

Abraham had heard these promises before, but now through passing God's test and God giving him these assurances by His own name, they take on a fresh meaning for Abraham. **Charles Spurgeon** (19th June 1834 – 31st January 1892 - an English Baptist preacher. People still know him as the "Prince of Preachers") used to say that the promises of God never shine brighter than in the furnace of affliction! What two people did on a lonely altar would one day bring the ultimate blessing to all who would receive (v18)!

Beersheba – “The well of oath” or “The well of seven”, where Abraham spent significant time of his life living!

NEW FAMILY! V20-24

This small genealogy separates the two most emotionally draining events in Abraham's life: the near death sacrifice of his son Isaac (**Ch22:1-14**), and the death of his wife Sarah (**Ch23:1-20**)! However, it also gives us glimpses of the future!

Nahor (**Abraham's brother – Ch22:20**) married within the family (**As Milcah is Lot's sister and daughter of Haran, Abraham's brother Ch11:27-30**) and had been blessed by God, will God not bless Abraham descendants? Rebekah, who will later be Isaac's wife, is mentioned here for the first time (**Ch22:23**). If God can give 12 sons to Nahor, 8 by his wife and 4 by a concubine, will He do less for Abraham's grandson (**Ch29-30**)?

APPLICATION

1. We grow in faith as we believe the bare word of God. The process starts with God bringing His word to us, and as we are challenged to believe His word, God will test us and stretch our faith in Him, through is word!
2. There are always highs and lows, ups and downs, or mountain tops and valleys!
3. God grows our faith, incrementally, or regular increases, so that we can offer up in worship our “Isaac's!”