

And verse 4 says Abraham saw the place far away (rāḥôq) The word used here can refer to either distance or to time.

If Abraham saw the unfolding events as a glimpse into the future, what would be the Isaac/Jesus parallels to our story for:

- *The place where he was offered as a sacrifice?*
- *Terms used to describe him?*
- *What he carried up the mountain?*
- *When he walked in unity with His father to the altar?*

The story of Abraham offering Isaac contains the first time the word worship (šāḥâ) is used in the Bible as well as the first mention of “only son” (yāḥîd) and love ('āḥab). It is a preview of God’s ultimate act of love when He offered Jesus on the hill at Calvary for the sins of the world. In fact, in Hebrews 11:19 this story is referred to as “parabolē” which translates as a type or a parable. God was demonstrating His plan through Abrahams sacrifice of Isaac just as He would sacrifice only beloved son on Calvary.

WRAP-UP

The account of Abraham and Isaac reveals both a profound test of faith and a glimpse into God’s redemptive plan. Faced with the command to sacrifice the son through whom God’s promises would be fulfilled, Abraham chose obedience, trusting that God would remain faithful even when the path made no sense. His willingness to offer Isaac, and God’s provision of a substitute sacrifice, demonstrate unwavering faith and God’s provision. The events on Mount Moriah also foreshadow the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God’s beloved Son, highlighting themes of love, trust, worship, and salvation.

MEMORY VERSE

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and the one who had received the promises was offering up his only [son;] 18 [it was he] to whom it was said, "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE NAMED." 19 He considered that God is able to raise [people] even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type. - Hebrews 11:17-19 NASB20

Challenge –

This week ask God to show you any area where He is calling you to trust Him and take a step toward a greater level of faith.

The Oldies- Week 3 Abraham

INTRODUCTION

This week we are studying the story of Abraham as God called him to sacrifice Isaac. The story is not only a test of faith, but it is also God revealing Himself and His plan of salvation. How could Abraham obey such a demand? It didn’t make sense to take the life of his son through whom God promised to grant Abraham descendants. Let’s consider how Abraham responded to God and how we respond when God appears to point us in a direction that we can’t make sense of.

Ice Breaker

Have you had an experience where your GPS failed, and you had to find your way without it? How did you get to your destination without GPS?

Key Passage

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2He said, “Take 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 that I shall show you.”

- Gen 22:1-2

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Test

Before we get to today’s passage, let’s look back a little to get some context. God chose Abram (later renamed Abraham). He called Abram to leave his home and family and go to Canaan where God would give him the land, make him a great nation, give him a great name and bless him so that through him all the families of the earth can be blessed. It was always God’s plan to rescue and bless His rebellious world through Abraham. God even made a covenant with Abram promising that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. And Abraham trusted God’s promise that he would become the father of many nations, even though he was very old and had no children. But he and Sarah grew impatient and tried to “help” God’s plan by conceiving a son through Sarah’s slave. That was not God’s plan. And after Abraham was 100 years

old and the slave woman and her son were sent away- Isaac, the promised son was born.

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Do you think God was justified in testing Abraham's faith? What questions do you think came to Abraham's mind when he heard God's command? Why do you think God specifically called Isaac "your only son"? What would Abraham's emotional response be?

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. 5Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." 6Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. – Gen 22:3-6

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Abraham had all night to think on what God asked of him, and in the morning, he committed to obedience. Just as when God told Him to leave his own land for a place God would show him, once again he set out demonstrating his faith in God.

What did Abraham do that indicated he was completely committed to following God's command? How does Hebrews 11:19 explain how he could say that both he and his son would come back?

7Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together. 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. Gen 22:7-10

There is no indication that a resurrection had occurred before Abraham prepared to offer Isaac. Yet Abraham had faith that God could do the impossible. And his was not only an "intellectual assent" to belief, but Abraham was also prepared to demonstrate his unconditional faith by his actions.

Isaac is aware that something is missing, and he asks his father "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham's response is both a statement of faith and a prophetic insight. God himself will provide the lamb! In what sense does this statement refer to Abraham's offering of Isaac and in what sense does it refer to God's future plans?

No precise date is given for this event, but Isaac is more than a child and possibly as old as 30. Abraham was 100 years older than Isaac. Isaac could have easily resisted being tied and placed on the altar. But the passage tells us he and his father walked together, in unity.

What do you think Isaac expected to happen? Do you think this a test of his faith as well? Is there anything you say you're believing God for but that you haven't yet acted as if you believe God will do it? Is it time to fully commit to obeying God in some area of your life today?

11But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy 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." 13And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." NRSV

When we see the term The Angel of the Lord it is referring to an appearance of God. (This is confirmed when the angel says, "you have not withheld your son from "ME".)

How did the conclusion of God's test confirm what Abraham believed that God would do? Do you think God could have raised Isaac from the dead if Abraham had killed him? What emotions must have Abraham and Isaac felt when they discovered the ram in the thicket? Is there a time when God came through for you in an impossible situation?

2. New Testament Parallels

Isaac was specifically called Abraham's "one and only son" (Heb. *yāhîd*) and the son whom Abraham loved (Heb *āhab*) This is the first time the Hebrew word for only son, and the first time the word for love, are found in the Bible. The land of Moriah refers to the region around Jerusalem. Mount Moriah was the hill on which Solomon would build his temple.