

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB GENESIS 22

Text: Genesis 22:8

Genesis 22:8

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

Introduction:

1. WE ARE TOLD OF A GREAT SAINT (VS 1)

Genesis 22:1

¹ And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

A. His Name - Father of many

B. His Nature

1. He was sensitive to the voice of God.
2. He sought to be obedient to God.

2. WE ARE TOLD OF A GREAT SACRIFICE (VS 2-5)

Genesis 22:1-5

¹ And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 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. ³ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 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.

A. The challenge - tempted.

1. This wasn't temptation to do evil.

James 1:13

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

2. This was a test of Abraham's faith.

It interesting that God never tested Lot. Everyone knew what Lot was. He was worldly, selfish and foolish.

When God trust you He will test you. Why?

For two reasons:

- To show you that He can take care of you in the test.
- To show the world that He is worthy of faith.

B. The cost - thy son thine only son.

This paints a wonderful portrait of our great God. He also gave us His son.

Notice the similarities between Isaac and Jesus Christ.

1. Thy son - Isa 9:6 - A son is given

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Thy only son - John 3:16 - only begotten son

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

3. Whom thou lovest - Matt 17:5 - this is my beloved son.

Matthew 17:5

⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

C. The compliance (vs 3-4)

1. Abraham never wavered.

D. The confidence (vs 5)

Genesis 22:5

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.

3. WE ARE TOLD OF A GREAT SON. (VS 2, 6-10)

Genesis 22:2

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.

Genesis 22:6-10

⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? ⁸ And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. ⁹ And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

From verse 2 and several later verses in Genesis 22, we note here three important descriptions of Isaac, the one to be sacrificed.

All of these descriptions will help us to better see the nature of the sacrifice Abraham had to make and also shows us how that Isaac foreshadows the Lord.

Note:

- The Lone Son (vs. 2)

Genesis 22:2

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.

The first description of Isaac by God in speaking to Abraham was "thine only son" (v. 2).

This phrase, "thine only son," is repeated in verses 12 and 16.

Genesis 22:12

¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:16

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:

It's interesting the description of Isaac – “thine **ONLY** son.”

The word “only” helps us see the significance of this sacrifice, and the Saviour.

When Isaac is sacrificed, there will be no son left.

Abraham is being asked to give his all.

Understand:

We may give a lot, but if we have a lot left, the sacrifice is not nearly as great as it is when we have nothing left.

It is what is left that determines the real size and cost of our sacrificing.

Illustration:

This is the lesson the Lord taught when He commended the giving of the poor widow.

Though she only gave two mites, she gave all she had.

Luke 21:4

⁴ For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

Others gave more in terms of money but not in terms of sacrifice.

Not only does this “only” speak of the significance of this sacrifice but also:

The "only" is a mark of our Savior. As Isaac was Abraham's only son, so Jesus Christ was God's only Son.

Both Isaac and Christ are, in fact, particularly called "only begotten son"

Hebrews 11:17

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

John 3:16

*¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

We consider not only the Lone Son but also:

- The Loved Son (vs. 2)

Genesis 22:2

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.*

Here God is emphasizing the heart in Abraham's duty.

Abraham is tested to see if he loves God more than Isaac.

Abraham is asked to give up Isaac, the son he loved the most.

Abraham is asked to do more than just send him away (which would not kill Isaac); he is asked to slay him.

What a great test of the heart's affection this test is for Abraham!

Quote:

The heart must be examined to determine the character of our sacrifice.

Proverbs 23:26

²⁶ *My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*

This is God's plea to man.

That is the main thing God wants from us.

If He has our heart, He has everything about us.

We may sacrifice much; but if the heart is not in it, the sacrifice loses much of its value.

Abraham demonstrated, in his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, that God was his first love.

We not only see in Isaac a Lone Son and a Loved Son but also:

- Law-Abiding Son

Isaac submitted completely to his father's will in this whole ordeal.

It is troubling today to see the rebellion of children toward their parents and to authority.

Isaac's submission can be seen in his going with Abraham (v. 3), in his carrying the wood for Abraham (v. 6), and especially in his not being recorded as uttering a word of complaint or protest when bound and laid on the altar (v. 9).

Genesis 22:3

³ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:6

⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:9

⁹ And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

We have considered A Great Saint, Great Sacrifice, and Great Son.

Consider lastly:

4. WE ARE TOLD OF A GREAT SUBSTITUTE (VS 11-14)

Genesis 22:11-14

¹¹ And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. ¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. 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.

Note:

- A. The provision - The ram
- B. The purpose - To take the place for Isaac
- C. The picture - Christ

This ram paints a wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You see, every sinner, just like Isaac, was doomed to die a terrible death.

In fact, all sinners are headed to Hell.

However, the Lord Jesus Christ, just like that ram became our substitute on the cross.

Put yourself in Isaac's shoes that day as his father untied him and then took that ram, tied it up, placed it in the wood and plunged that knife into it.

I can see the tears running down the Isaac's face as he watched that lamb bleed to death.

Isaac knew that he was the one who should have died, but he lived because another had taken his place.

I am sure his heart was filled with gratitude over what the Lord had provided for him.

Again thinking about this ram we see that the ram was:

Near, Free, and Appropriate

Close:

Now, the question that must be asked is: What are you going to do with Jesus?

Isaac and Abraham trusted that lamb to take Isaac's place.

They offered it, worshiped before the Lord and then they came back down the mountain together.

Have you come to the place today where you are willing to come before the Lord and trust Jesus as your substitute?

Are you will to come to Him and trust what He did on the cross to set you free?

Yes, the Lord died a terrible death.

Yes, He paid a high price.

A price, I might add, that He did not owe!

Are you going to allow His death to be in vain as far as you are concerned; or, will you come to Him right now and be saved by the grace of God?

One day, you will reach the end of life.

Wouldn't you like to know that you are saved when that day comes?

You can, but only if you will come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you will turn to the Lamb of God and receive Him as your Savior, you can be free today.

You can worship and go back down the mountain, alive and free because of the One Who took your place.