Abraham Tested
Genesis 22

Main Thought  Abraham's faith succeeds in its greatest test – the sacrifice of his one and only Son, Isaac, as God provides the LAMB!

ABRAHAM TESTED (1-2).

- Faith that can't be tested (GK = periazo) can't be trusted (Jam. 1:2-4). God TESTS for good while Satan TEMPTS (GK = periazo) for bad (Jam. 1:13). David was TESTED by God (2 Sam. 24:1) but TEMPTED by Satan (1 Chron. 21:1).
- God's initial command to "go to a land I will show you" followed by great promises (12:1-3) is repeated here (2, 18) forming an inclusio.
- The key word is SON (10x). The main character is Abraham, not Isaac.
- How absurd for God to ask him to slay his miraculous son after waiting so long for him. While it is true that the first born son belongs to God (Ex. 13:12-13), it borders on the edge of morality as illogical and irrational.

ABRAHAM OBEYS (3-10).

- Details heighten the suspense: (1) EARLY – immediate with no bargaining (17:18; 18:23); (2) two SERVANTS – his eminence; (3) CUT WOOD – sacrifice; (4) THREE DAYS – somber reflection with resolute faith; (5) STAY HERE shows his isolation.
- We will worship and WE WILL RETURN shows both his willingness to slay his son but also his belief in resurrection from the dead (Heb. 11:17-19).
- Isaac carried the wood (Christ's cross – John 19:17) showing his strength to resist but instead willing submitted as did Christ (Heb. 10:7).
- Repetition of FATHER and SON show their close relationship as Isaac asked about the lamb. By faith he is reassured God would provide.
- In slow motion the altar is built, wood arranged, son bound, son laid on the altar, knife raised.

ABRAHAM'S PROVISION (11-19).

- BUT – the most important word in the bible denotes divine intervention just in the nick of time – Abraham, Abraham (Jacob – 46:2; Saul – Acts 9:4).
- "Now I know" showed his faith was in deed not just words (Jam. 2:21-22).
- God's providence and provision was at work in the "ram in a thicket". This was the sacrificial lamb of God (PASSOVER – Ex. 12:21) sacrificed INSTEAD OF Isaac. Jesus gave his live for (GK = anti – instead of) us (Matt. 20:28). This is the vicarious atonement – he died in our place (Gal. 3:13).
- This very place was Mt. Moriah (future Jerusalem) where Christ was sacrificed. God gave his one and only son and offered him as a sacrifice for our sins out of his love for us (John 3:16).

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)!"