

Theme: We are called to trust God when our faith is tested, even when all seems lost, knowing that He will provide all we need in Christ.

## I. Intro – When Dreams Are About To Die

- A. Story about my call and when it almost died
- B. Abraham is going through an even greater test
- C. Will he give up on God's promise regarding seed?

## II. Purpose and Structure of the Passage

- A. The passage is not about no child sacrifice
- B. The passage is about the test of Abraham (v1)
- C. Basic structure – 3 parts
  - 1. Presentation of the test (vv1-2)
  - 2. Abraham obeys God's command (vv3-10)
  - 3. God expands and extends blessing (vv11-19)
- D. Link with 12:1-3 – start and completion of faith
  - 1. First and last word to Abraham
  - 2. Same basic command: Go to place I show you
  - 3. Both commands deal with loss of family
  - 4. Only two occurrences of אֵלֶיךָ - אֵלֶיךָ in whole OT

## III. The Test: Sacrifice Your Beloved Son (vv1-2)

- A. After some time: the shocking test of faith (v1)

- 1. Some time later (10+ years since weaned)
- 2. Purposes of testing (Deut 8:2; Deut 8:16)
- 3. Fourfold statement of preciousness (v2)
- 4. 'Son' is used 10x in passage
- 5. The son of promise – whole life in Isaac

## B. The depth of the test being given

- 1. Natural preciousness of Isaac to Abraham
- 2. Covenant promises on the line
- 3. How can this be????

## IV. Abraham's Obedience to God's Command

- A. Prompt obedience (v3)
- B. Sustained obedience (v4)
- C. An obedience built on faith (v5; Heb 11:17-19)
- D. Obedience based on God's faithfulness (v7-8)
- E. Calvin's quote
- F. Difficult conclusion of obedience of faith (vv9-10)
- G. A moment frozen in time

## V. God Expands and Extends the Blessing

- A. God intervenes – don't do it! (vv11-12a)
- B. Abraham passed the test – Godly fear confirmed

- C. God's provision for those who trust (v13)
- D. The point – trust in God's provision (v14)
- E. Passage theme: Moriah; v5; v8; v14
- F. Moriah – 2 Chr 3:1;
- G. God expands and extends the blessing
- H. Note the changes to the blessing (slide)

## When Faith Is Tested

Genesis 22:1-19

July 6, 2008

Communion

Numbers 6

### **VI. Applying the Word**

- A. Do we see God tests us where He has blessed?
  - 1. Last week – God gives us dreams/blessings
  - 2. Tests come to see if we love God or blessing
  - 3. Which do we love more – God or His gifts?
- B. Do we look to God's provision during testing?
  - 1. Point of test is to cause us to look to Him
  - 2. He will provide – Yahweh Yireh!
  - 3. Rom 8:32ff – God gave Jesus; provides for us
- C. Looking to God's provision in testing
  - 1. Where are you tested to distrust?
  - 2. Kids, job, finances, relationship
  - 3. We need to learn to trust Yahweh Yireh
- D. Communion: God has provided

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. Deut 8:2

16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. Deut 8:16

17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. Heb 11:17-19

“This example is proposed for our imitation. Whenever the Lord gives a command, many things are perpetually occurring to enfeeble our purpose: means fail, we are destitute of counsel, all avenues seem closed. In such straits, the only remedy against despondency is to leave the event to God, in order that he may open a way for us when there is none.” (Calvin, quoted Wenham, 109).

<sup>1</sup> Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David. 2 Chronicles 3:1