

God's Covenants

The LORD Will Provide

Key idea:

The LORD sees me and provides for me, even sacrificing His own Son so that I might be spared and blessed.

Key text:

Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Key points:

1. Genesis 22 is the end of God’s covenant promises to Abraham, forming a bookend with Genesis 12.
2. Isaac was the seed God had promised to Abraham but God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice Isaac.
3. Abraham’s faith in God’s promise caused him to display prompt and sustained obedience to God’s call to sacrifice Isaac.
4. The central message of this passage is that the LORD will provide! When all seemed lost, God provided the ram so that Isaac could be spared. This principle was then reiterated throughout the Old Testament sacrificial system as lambs were sacrificed so that God’s people might be spared.
5. All of this is a type and shadow of Jesus, the True Lamb of God Who was sacrificed so that God’s people might be spared and blessed.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday’s text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Can I think of times of testing in my life? What emotions did I experience during the testing? How did I respond to the test?
3. Why does God refer to Isaac as “your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love”? What does this communicate to Abraham? What does it communicate to me?
4. Although it is not the true focus of the passage, how is Abraham’s response of faith and obedience an example to me? Was this “blind faith”? If not, how could Abraham trust God in such a circumstance? How can I?
5. Why does the author give so much detail in verses 9-10 as Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac? What does he intend me to feel as I read these words? Why is this important?

6. Why does Abraham name Mount Moriah Yahweh-Yireh “The LORD Will Provide”? What is this name meant to convey to his descendants? What should I learn from this name Yahweh-Yireh (Jehovah-Jireh)?
7. Bret mentioned that the verb translated as “provide” usually means “to see”. Why is it important to know that God “sees” me? How is this a comfort in my times of testing and trial?
8. Abraham did not have to sacrifice his beloved only son because God provided a ram in his place. In the New Testament we see that God does NOT spare His only beloved Son but rather gives Him up so that we might be spared. Can I think of New Testament verses that teach this? What does this tell me about the depth of God’s love for me?
9. What does this whole episode, which occurs at the very end of God’s actions in Abraham’s life, teach us about God’s covenant? If it is true that “The LORD will provide” what does that mean for God’s covenant and my place within it?
10. In what areas am I being tested and tried? In what areas am I finding it hard to trust God and his provision and promises right now? How can I learn from this episode in Abraham’s life to trust and obey God’s call for me?
11. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?