

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

I. Intro - When God's Promise Seems It Will Die

- A. The story about my call to be a pastor
- B. Over 12 years passed - it seemed like the call failed
- C. A real test for me - to teach me about God's character
- D. Abraham, Isaac, and God's promise of seed
- E. How will God's covenant promises of Seed be kept?

II. The Purpose of This Passage

- A. Some time later/After these things, a test for Abraham
Some time later God tested Abraham. Genesis 22:1
 - 1. This is after Ishmael was sent away
 - 2. The promise of seed will come through Isaac
 - 3. God is testing Abraham - but Abraham does not know this!
 - 4. This is not about child sacrifice, but about how God's promise is going to be kept
- B. The test: how will God's covenant promise be fulfilled?
 - 1. The link with Genesis 12:1-3 (start of the covenant)
 - a. First & last word of God to Abraham (35x in all)
 - b. Same command: Go to the place I show you
 - c. The command לָךְ-לְךָ - only two times in Scripture
The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country.." Genesis 12:1
Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go ... Genesis 22:2

- d. This is the bookends of the covenant with Abraham
- 2. Abram's faith is tested - but to show how the covenant will be fulfilled
- 3. It teaches us about the faithfulness of God when all seems confusing and hope is dying

III. The Test: Sacrifice the Promised Seed

- A. Some time later - a shocking test
Some time later God tested Abraham. Genesis 22:1
 - 1. It has been over 10 years since Isaac was weaned
 - 2. All seems safe with God's promise of seed - Isaac
 - 3. But now comes a horrible test of faith!
- B. The test: sacrifice the beloved promised son/seed
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." (Genesis 22:2)
 - 1. How can this be? Would God really have this happen?
 - 2. Your son, your only, whom you love - sacrifice him!
 - 3. Abraham loves Isaac; he is Abraham's joy
 - 4. The word 'son' is used 10x in this passage to emphasize the point!
 - 5. He is Abraham's only covenant son - the seed
 - 6. If Isaac dies, the covenant promise dies with him!
 - 7. God emphasizes all of this as if Abraham did not already know it! How excruciating! How confusing!
 - 8. How will Abraham respond to this terrible test?

IV. Abraham's Painful Obedience to God's Call

A. Abraham's prompt, sustained obedience

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. (Genesis 22:3-4)

1. EARLY the next morning - no delay in obedience
2. A painful here day journey - sustained obedience!
3. The 3rd day he arrives at the place of sacrifice

B. Abraham's faith in God's promise

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.**" (Genesis 22:5)

1. Is he lying? Is he speaking out of faith?
2. He continues to speak in faith
"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.**" (Genesis 22:7-8)
 - a. He could be lying or hiding it from Isaac - but this is the key phrase in the whole passage!
 - b. Abraham seems to have faith God will preserve Isaac and the seed through even death!

3. God tells us it was faith!

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.** (Hebrews 11:17-19)

- a. Note the test - sacrifice your one and only son, the promised seed
 - b. Abraham reasoned God would have to raise Isaac from the dead - God's promise could not fail!
 - c. Abraham was not lying - He was trusting God to keep His covenant promise!
4. In this Abraham is a great example to us: trust God!
"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).
 5. Know that God's promises are always tested, but that the LORD can be trusted! He will provide!

V. The Conclusion: The LORD Will Provide!

- ### A. The conclusion of the test - in extreme slow motion!
- 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. (Genesis 22:9-10)

1. The three-day journey covered in a few words
2. Note the incredible detail - every single action is described in detail
3. The moment of truth has arrived, and everything slows down (people often say 'whole life passed before my eyes')
4. God has still not provided, but Abraham trusts and obeys!

B. The conclusion - the LORD intervenes

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." (Genesis 22:11-12)

1. The Angel of the LORD calls out "Abraham, Abraham" (twice for emphasis)
2. Abraham responds "Here I am" (also Genesis 22:1)
3. "Do not lay a hand on the boy!" - You have passed!
4. You fear God - you trust and obey!

C. The conclusion - the LORD Will Provide

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." (Genesis 22:13-14)

1. Abraham looked up and saw - same as v4 where he saw the mountain of sacrifice

2. Abraham looked up - and saw a ram to sacrifice!
3. The Lamb takes the place of his son Isaac
4. The central message: "The LORD Will Provide"
5. Three times in this passage (v8, v14 - 2x)
Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my 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." (Genesis 22:8,14)
6. This is one of Yahweh's covenant names - Yahweh Yireh (Jehovah Jireh) - The LORD Will Provide
7. The verb "provide" usually means "to see" (v4, 13) - The LORD sees us, knows our struggles and fears - and He provides!
8. The same verb used by Hagar - The God Who Sees Me; we may feel we are forgotten and overlooked by God, but the LORD sees, and the LORD provides!

D. The result - the seed is saved and blessed

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." (Genesis 22:15-18)

1. The final word of the LORD to Abraham - the covenant promise re-confirmed and extended

2. I swear by myself - a Divine covenant oath
3. Promise of seed, protection, blessing given again
4. Now the blessing will go through the seed
5. Because Abraham trusted God in this test, the blessing grows and is passed through the very seed that had been threatened with death!

VI. Applying the Word

A. Do I know that the LORD will provide?

1. This event teaches us that the LORD will provide
2. The LORD provided a ram so Isaac was spared - a type of the Lord Jesus
3. The LORD provided the Passover Lamb & spared Israel - a type of the Lord Jesus
4. The LORD provided lambs and rams in the sacrificial system and on the Day of Atonement to spare His people - all types of the Lord Jesus
5. Mount Moriah is where the Temple was built - and lambs were sacrificed to spare the people
Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David.**
(2 Chronicles 3:1)
 - a. This is the only other mention of Mount Moriah in OT
 - b. The LORD “appeared/was seen” by David - the same verb for “to see/provide” in Genesis 22
 - c. Every Temple sacrifice was a reminder that the LORD sees and provides

6. Unlike Abraham, God did not spare His only, beloved Son, but freely gave Him up for us all!
He who **did not spare his own Son**, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)
 - a. Spare - same Greek word in Genesis 22 LXX
 - b. God did not spare His Sn so that Abraham’s son Isaac might be spared!
 - c. God did not spare Jesus so that we might be spared!
 - d. If He did this how will He not see and provide for us?
7. We know Yahweh Yireh - the LORD will provide, because He has done so once and for all in Jesus Christ!

B. Responding in faith to the LORD’s provision

1. God sees you and has provided for you!
2. If you have never done so, receive His provision today! Let the Lamb pay for your sin!
3. Trust the LORD - no matter how fearful and confusing the circumstances!
4. God will always keep His promise!
5. When we are tested, it is to strengthen our faith and to increase our blessing!
6. When we are tested it is so that the blessing might increase and flow through us to others!
7. Where does it seem like God’s promise is failing?
8. Where do I feel like God does not see me?
9. Lift up your eyes - God sees you and will provide!

C. Closing Prayer of Trust

The LORD Will Provide

Genesis 22:1-18

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Prayer

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Covenant; salvation and deliverance; testing and trial;
Name of God; typology; faith; obedience; biblical characters

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

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.”

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