

I. Abraham Tested

A) It says that this test happened “after these things” (v. 1)

- 1) We have followed Abraham since he was 75 years old when God first called him
- 2) It was a call of faith that he would be the father of a multitude of people that would bless all humanity
At age 86 – He and Hagar conceived Ishmael which didn’t work
- 3) It took another 14 years for Abraham and Sarah to finally get enough faith to believe that God and conceive Isaac
 - a) His names means laughter as Sarah was beside herself that she had brought a child into the world at 90!
 - b) But as time went on – It was obvious that Ishmael and Isaac couldn’t exist together
 - c) So Hagar and Ishmael were sent into the desert to perish – All for the sake of Isaac

God intervened and spared Hagar and Ishmael – Who was about 17-20 or so at the time

- 4) Now Abraham is about 114 and Isaac 14
 - a) Abraham has spent about 40 years of his life to get to this point with this child Isaac
 - b) It is the very pinnacle of what God’s plan for his life was

To be the chosen man of God and to start a chosen line of people

B) **THIS is the very thing that God NOW puts to the test (vv. 1-2)**

- 1) When God tested Abraham’s faith – He picked the thing that was nearest and dearest to him – his son
- 2) What else would be more precious to Abraham at this point in his life?
 - a) He has had possessions a plenty
 - b) He and his wife have had a full life together for many years
 - c) And Now God tells him to sacrifice him!?!?!?

- 3) This goes against any person’s natural affection for their children
 - a) This goes against the very plan that Abraham has gone through fierce doings for many years
 - b) This would bring the very plan of God to a halt

God could not have picked anything more precious to Abraham

C) Just like Abraham – God will test your faith as well – Is it truly genuine?

- 1) Are you just playing church or religion with God? – He already knows
- 2) And He will order the situation so that it is brought to a head
Do you really believe and trust in God – Or not?
- 3) When I see some people whose faith is not evident – I wonder where they are at with God
 - a) I’m not the final judge – God Is
 - b) When there are people who are half-committed – Or Back-slidden – or just sort of going along
God will put these people to the test – Is God the Lord of your life OR NOT?

D) Just like Abraham – When God tests – He will pick the thing that is nearest and dearest to your heart

- 1) Which is more important to you – God or something else?
 - a) Your family – This is what God chose in Abraham
 - b) Sports – Some people live by what happens to their favorite sports venue
 - c) Your job – Some people are going to get ahead regardless of what it takes
 - d) Your life

It is the essence of the First Commandment – “You Shall Have NO Other gods Before Me” – We should fear, Love and trust in God above all things

Or as Jesus said, “He who keeps his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.” (Matt. 16:25”

II Abraham Faithful

A) What was Abraham's response to this personal charge? – What would yours be?

Notice something absolutely crucial – Abraham never questioned God!

- 1) He could have questioned this command away
 - a) God would never tell me to do this – It's Isaac!
 - b) This is something the heathen do – Not the people of God
 - c) An animal will do instead
- 2) Instead Abraham rises early in the morning to get going (v. 3) – His obedience is swift
- 3) He has 3 days to think about this whole thing (v. 4)
Imagine how he slept those nights – “I am going to slay my son”
- 4) He arrived at the spot and took his son – The knife – and he wood
 - a) He even answered his son when questioned about this whole thing (v. 7)
 - b) He even bound his son on the wood and took the knife to slay him (v. 10)
Can you imagine the feelings that must have been going through his mind?

The Scriptures state it so plainly but Abraham must have been in utter turmoil inside

B) Why would God do such a thing as this to Abraham? (v. 12)

- 1) Abraham has been just going along with God being the one to keep reminding him in his doubt
- 2) Now is the time for his faith get going
- 3) This was that very time in Abraham's life that his faith finally became active and living and not just passive
James 2:20-23 ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, ^ayou foolish fellow, that ^bfaith without works is useless? ²¹ ^aWas not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that ^afaith was working with his works, and ¹as a result of the ^bworks, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ^a“And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called ^bthe friend of God.

It had now been about 40 years since Abraham gazed at the stars at night and It says that Abraham believed in the Lord and it was reckoned to him as righteousness” (Gen. 15:6)

- 4) Even seeing the miraculous birth of Isaac didn't bring Abraham's faith to life – The test of sacrificing him did

C) Do you see the tremendous difference in Abraham's faith? (v. 8)

- 1) Before he fell to the ground and laughed at the thought of an old man and woman having a baby
- 2) Now he believes that he will slay his son and God will raise him from the dead on the spot (v. 5)
 - a) This is the only way that God will keep His promise of the descendants through Isaac and for God to order the son killed

Hebrews 11:17-19 ¹⁷ By faith ^aAbraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had ^breceived the promises was offering up his only begotten son; ¹⁸ *it was he* to whom it was said, ^a“In Isaac your ¹descendants shall be called.” ¹⁹ ¹He considered that ^aGod is able to raise *men* even from the dead; from which he also received him back ²as a ^btype.”

God will test it to see if it is genuine or not

If your faith is not alive today – Will you pray that God will order YOUR PERSONAL TEST

So that you may come out the other side closer to God and a faith that is alive and active