GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

THE GOD WHO PROVIDES

GENESIS 22

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

*“Do not let your heart envy sinners, but live in the **fear of the Lord** always.”* (Prov. 23:17)

*“How blessed is the man who **fears [God] always**, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”* (Prov. 28:14)

*“The **fear of the Lord** leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.”* (Prov. 19:23)

*“The **fear of the Lord** is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.”* (Prov. 14:27)

*“Better is a little with the **fear of the Lord** than great treasure and turmoil with it.”* (Prov. 15:16)

*“Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who **fear God**, who **fear Him openly**. But it will not be well for the evil man, and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he **does not fear God**.”* (Eccles. 8:12-13)

*“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God** and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”* (Eccles. 12:13)

Are **you** a God-fearer?

”If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me.” (John 14:21)

Are **you** a God-fearer?

Why do you obey Jesus?

Genesis 22 is sectioned into **three scenes** as the narrative develops around Abraham sacrificing Isaac to God.

The tension builds as Abraham prepares to leave, then journeys for three days, climbs the mountain, prepares the altar and binds Isaac, and then comes to the very moment of plunging the knife into young Isaac's heart.

I. God provides the definitive <u>TEST</u> for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:1-8)

A God-fearer's heart keeps <u>trusting</u>.

The issue verse 1 introduces concerns God's decision and actions to **<u>test</u>** Abraham.

Test = **<u>to prove, to put to the proof</u>**

It seems God is creating a situation for Abraham to prove out, to openly demonstrate to himself and others **<u>what his heart holds most dear</u>**.

God ordains the circumstances of your life **<u>to show *you*</u>** the devotion of your heart.

I. **God provides the definitive <u>TEST</u> for the God-fearer's heart** (Gen. 22:1-8)

"your son… your only son, whom you love, Isaac (your laughter/the delight of your heart)*."*

We know from the New Testament that Isaac is a **<u>type</u>** of Christ (a corresponding foreshadow of the greater substance and fulfillment to come).

> *"The Scripture, **<u>foreseeing</u>** that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel **<u>beforehand</u>** to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations will be blessed in you'… in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through **<u>faith</u>**…. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, **<u>Christ</u>**."* (Gal. 3:8, 14, 16)

I. **God provides the definitive <u>TEST</u> for the God-fearer's heart** (Gen. 22:1-8)

*"And behold, a voice out the heavens said, 'This is **<u>My beloved Son</u>**, in whom I am well-pleased.'"* (Matt. 3:17)

*"And a voice came out of the heavens: 'You are **<u>My beloved Son</u>**, in You I am well-pleased.'"* (Mark 1:11)

*"And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are **<u>My beloved Son</u>**, in You I am well-pleased.'"* (Luke 3:22)

I. God provides the definitive <u>TEST</u> for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:1-8)

"But now, as we look into the Gospel of God's love and God's Son, the record of the 'beloved disciple' John, we are silenced in awe [fear] when we come to read the first verse in John containing 'love'. What is the verse?

> *'For God so loved the world that **<u>He gave His only begotten Son</u>**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16)

"Three times God shouts His love for His Son from the very heavens. But then He tells us that He loved us (yes, *<u>us</u>*!) so much that He was willing to sacrifice His only and beloved Son, in order that we might be saved." *(Henry Morris)*

I. **God provides the definitive <u>TEST</u> for the God-fearer's heart** (Gen. 22:1-8)

A God-fearer's heart keeps <u>obeying</u>.

"But God said, 'No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name, Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with Him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants [seed] *after him."* (Gen. 17:19)

"By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.' He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him [Isaac] *back as a type."* (Heb. 11:17-19

<u>Honoring God's Word</u> is the best and safest path through the difficulties of life.

I. **God provides the definitive <u>TEST</u> for the God-fearer's heart** (Gen. 22:1-8)

A God-fearer's heart keeps <u>walking</u>.

I. God provides the definitive TEST for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:1-8)

II. God provides the definitive TRUTH for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:9-14)

A God-fearer's heart withholds nothing from God.

And what is it that keeps Abraham's hand from plunging the knife into Isaac?

TRUTH

II. God provides the definitive <u>TRUTH</u> for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:9-14)

A God-fearer's heart <u>worships</u> God in truth

It is by **<u>God's provision alone</u>** that you will always have what God intends for you in your walk with God and in all of life.

I. God provides the definitive TEST for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:1-8)

II. God provides the definitive TRUTH for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:9-14)

III. God provides the definitive TRIUMPH for the God-fearer's heart (Gen. 22:15-19)

A God-fearer's heart rejoices at God's truth.

"The fear of the Lord leads to life…"

Will you follow the Lord in the fear of the Lord?

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