

Genesis 22 - Lesson 32

Abraham Justified by Works

1. 22:1-3 - God tempts Abraham

- a. The word tempt here means trial, we know because of Heb 11:17
- b. We face tests of faith, but not from God - Matt 4:1; Eph 6:16
- c. Temptation to sin does not come from God - Jam 1:13-14
- d. God doesn't tempt us to sin, he provides the way of escape - 1 Cor 10:13-14
- e. God is not testing Abraham's faith but his fear - Gen 22:12
- f. Many people have cried "help my unbelief" - Mark 9:24, Luke 17:5
- g. Faith can only be proved by looking at its object - the man of faith will obey

2. 22:4-14 - The Offering of Isaac

- a. Moriah is where the temple is at in Jerusalem (a foreshadow) - 2 Chron 3:1
- b. Burnt offerings were provided to test devotion to God, the world sees a waste
- c. 22:5 - "*and come again*" - He believed God to raise the dead on the 3rd day Heb 11:19
- d. Isaac carrying the wood of his own death - hindsight is 20/20 that this is like Christ
- e. "*God will provide himself*" shows both God as the provider and the provision
- f. "*which God had told him of*" - God speaks things not recorded in the Bible
- g. 22:10-11 - God knows thoughts and intents, but obedience is required - Heb 4:12
- h. He is not testing today. Your faith is not in an angel, your responsibility is to God
- i. 22:12 - God can change his instructions, but why did God test Abraham?
- j. "*for now I know that thou fearest God*" - Abraham feared Abimelech in Gen 20:11
- k. 22:13 - God provided a substitutionary lamb for Isaac, the scripture foresaw not Abe
- l. "*Jehovah-jireh*" - These names indicate lessons about God - God's provision is seen

3. 22:15-19 - God's Swear

- a. "*by myself have I sworn*" - because there is no greater - Heb 6:15-18
- b. "*because thou hast obeyed*" - before it was just promise, then an oath, then circumcision, and now there is a required work to obey and Abe performed
 - i. Abraham had promises before the work - Israel had works, but promises?
 - ii. Only if they did the works of Abraham and obeyed - John 8:37-39, 8:51

4. Justified by Works or Faith

- a. James 2: 14-18 - Faith can only be evidenced by works if God makes a requirement
- b. Salvation is always by God's grace, faith is always the precondition, and works can never save, but they can be required.
- c. Can faith save being alone? James: No James 2:17; Paul: Yes - Rom 3:25, 4:5
- d. Abraham was justified by works in Genesis 22, but by faith only in Gen 15:6
- e. The difference was that between Gen 15 and Gen 22 the "faith" had changed, God made a work (offering his son) a commandment. In Genesis 15 it wasn't so.
- f. Glory to God by the dispensation of God's grace we are not under law!