



Series Title: “GENESIS: Jesus is the Better _____”

Message: “The Better Sacrifice”

Passage: Genesis 22

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Passage Outline

- God tests Abraham (vv. 1-2)
- Abraham obeys God’s command (vv. 3-12)
- God provides the sacrifice (vv. 13-14)
- God makes covenant with Abraham (vv. 15-19) (see Genesis 17)
- The children of Abraham’s brother Nahor (vv. 20-21)

Message Summary

Prologue: God calls Abram from his home in Ur and directs him to a new land. Despite Abram’s weakness and failings, God makes covenant with him. It not because of anything Abram has done, but because of God’s own character. And the sign of this covenant is to be Abraham’s son, who would be the first of many generations.

God keeps his promise to Abram/Abraham... God always keeps his promises. And late in their years, Abraham and Sarah are given a son, Isaac.

The Testing: In v. 1 we read that “God tested Abraham.” Really? Hasn’t Abraham been tested enough already? Hasn’t he been tried and found faithful many times? Hasn’t he believed God, and been called righteous?

God makes an unbelievable request of Abraham—to give up Isaac, the son of God’s promise. And not simply to send him out on his own, but to sacrifice Isaac on an altar in the same way he would a lamb.

1 Peter 6-7 tells us that we, too, will find our faith tested...by God. Think of this; nothing

happens that God does not allow. But more than that, God sometimes brings hardship into our lives to test our faith. “Testing” is from the Hebrew word *nasa*, which means determining what something (someone) is truly made of through hardship.

What was Abraham thinking during the three days it took for he and Isaac and their two servants to reach the mountain? What were those days like for him?

The important thing is that Abraham hears God’s request, and sets out in faith to obey. Remember that Isaac is the sign of God’s covenant. Abraham’s obedience is the sign of his faith and trust in the promise of God. He knows that “God will provide,” and that the promise he made to Abraham will be kept.

But Isaac, too, shows faith. It is the faith that cooperates with God’s plan. Certainly, Isaac could have overpowered his 120-year-old-plus father and escaped. But he *allows* his father to bind him and place him atop the pile of wood on the altar.

God’s promise is not only for Abraham, but it is for Isaac as well. Both men show their faith in actions (see James 2:14-17).

Jesus, then, is the better Isaac, better sacrifice because he his trust in the Father takes him to the cross, and he goes there willingly to atone for our sin.

Application: God brings us to this point, as well. He knows everything that we allow to stand between ourselves and him, and he knows that we need to give those things up.

Has God asked me to trust him to the point of giving up something I treasure? Was I willing to do so? Did I shrink from obedience?

