

## Sermon Title: The Lord Will Provide

### Sermon Text: Genesis 22:1-14

Last week we celebrated Palm Sunday! Jesus, the “Son of promise”, had finally arrived in Jerusalem... And there was much to celebrate!

In a similar way, there was much to celebrate in Genesis 21. For Abraham & Sarah’s long awaited “son of promise” had also come (An interesting parallel)!

But the connection between these two “sons” didn’t end there. The next chapter in Genesis is a foreshadowing of the events of this week -Holy Week

The similarities again are striking, but with one main difference... Let’s read Gen. 22 & discover how these 2 narratives shape the story of God’s people!

The text starts off with, “After these things God tested Abraham...” From the clues we have in Scripture, Isaac was probably not a child. He was more likely a young man... So this test was as much for him as it was for Abraham!

In the same way, the events leading up to the death of Jesus, required both God the Father, and Jesus the Son, to carry it out!

- Isaac didn’t know at first what God told Abraham to do, but once he did he could have resisted Abraham at any point! He had to be a willing participant!

- So too, Jesus could have resisted at any point! He, like Isaac before Him, was willing to go all the way to His death for the sake of obedience to His Father.

As strange/upsetting as it is for us to hear of what God asked Abraham to do, we must remember that this was a test, & it was given by God! He was in control the entire time! It sounds wrong to us... but God had a plan!

It’s important to note that there is a difference between “testing”, and “tempting”. “Tempting” leads to sin... “Testing” confirms faith & obedience!

Abraham and Isaac’s faith were being tested, but God was never going to go through with Abraham killing his son! But... God Himself would do exactly that with sacrificing His own Son, not to confirm faith, but to provide for it!

Vs. 2 – God said, “Take your son Isaac, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

Do you hear the familiar language that points to God’s relationship with His Son – His “only son”, “whom He loves”. This is no coincidence!

The location is also important. The land of Moriah would be the future location of Jerusalem. And it’s very possible/likely that the place on the mountain where this took place with Abraham & Isaac, would be the same location where Jesus would be sacrificed on the cross!

Vs. 3 – “So Abraham rose early in the morning...” Contrast Abraham’s response to Lot’s response back in Genesis 19. Abraham did not delay!

So too, in the fullness of time (at the right time) God sent His Son into the world – Galatians 4:4. Abraham modeled for us what God would also do!

“Abraham cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.” He made all the necessary arrangements.

Vs. 4 – “On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes & saw the place from afar.” That had to have been the longest & hardest 3 days of Abraham’s life!

Consider what it must have been like for God in the days leading up to, and following, Jesus’ death? And let’s not miss the significance of the 3 days!

Vs. 5 – “I and the boy/young man will go over there and worship & come again to you.” This was not denial on Abraham’s part, it was an exercise of incredible faith! He believed God’s promise! He believed He would provide! Hebrews 11:17-19 God would make a way – even if it took resurrection!

Vs. 6 – “Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son.” Isaac had to carry the wood that he himself would lay upon for the sacrifice! And so too, Jesus would carry the wood/cross for his own sacrifice!

Vs. 7-8 - “Isaac said ‘Behold the fire & the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’” And God did, in both cases!

Vs. 13 – “And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked...” God spared Isaac by providing a replacement sacrifice! God has done the same for us by providing His own Son as our sacrificial lamb! He is our lifeline!

Vs. 14 - “So Abraham called the name of that place, ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’”

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