

“A Substitute” - Genesis 22:1-14

Ask - “Have you ever substituted something for something else? Share your experience.”

Background - About a year after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Sarah gave birth to Issac. Hagar subsequently took her son Ishmael and departed to the wilderness. While Issac was very young, Abraham and his family sojourned for a while in the land of the Philistines. Meanwhile, Issac grew into boyhood.

“God’s Command” - Genesis 22:1-4

(v1) The story told in this chapter is a what from God? Why does the LORD test His children? (read James 1:2-3)

(v2) What did God tell Abraham to do? Why does God’s command seem so absurd and out of character?

(v3-4) Did Abraham obey the LORD’s instructions? Did he delay or put it off? How many days did he travel with Isaac before seeing his destination from a distance?

THE LORD TESTED ABRHAM BY TELLING HIM TO OFFER UP HIS BELOVED SON ISAAC AS A BURNT OFFERING ON MOUNT MORIAH. ABRAHAM FOLLOWED THE LORD’S COMMAND AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE MOUNTAIN.

“Abraham’s Confidence” - Genesis 22:5-8

(v5) As they drew dear, what did Abraham tell his servants? Who did he say would return to them after making the sacrifice? Why would he say this?

(v6-8) As father and son walked toward the mountain, what did Isaac notice and ask? How did Abraham respond? What does his response imply?

AS THEY APPROACHED ABRAHAM EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BOTH HE AND ISAAC WOULD RETURN FROM THE MOUNTAIN. HE TOLD HIS SON THAT GOD WOULD PROVIDE A SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

“God’s Provision” - Genesis 22:9-14

(v9) When they arrived at Mount Moriah, what did Abraham do? Does the Bible suggest that Isaac made any effort to escape or resist his elderly father? Discuss.

(v10-12) What was Abraham about to do? How did the LORD intervene and

what did He say?

(v13) When Abraham looked up, what did he see? Seeing it, what did Abraham do? How is this ram a picture of Jesus Christ? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:21)

(v14) What did Abraham call that place? In what ways has the LORD provided for us?

WHEN THEY CAME TO MOUNT MORIAH, ABRAHAM PREPARED TO SACRIFICE ISAAC. AT THE LAST MOMENT, GOD INTERVENED AND PROVIDED A SUBSTITUTE. ABRAHAM PASSED THE TEST!

Application - For years leading up to this, the LORD had pledged to give Abraham a son that would be the recipient of the covenant's promises. His descendants would become the people of Israel and live in the Promised Land. Abraham trusted God to keep His word and maintained confidence in the LORD throughout this entire ordeal. Likewise, God promised a Messiah would come to save His people from their sin - a Savior who would die as a substitute for us! Jesus is the Lamb who was slain in our place! We can trust in our God who has, through His own Son, provided redemption and salvation for believers. How does your level of confidence in God aid or impede you when tested?