



For what purpose is God "testing" Abraham? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Genesis 22:1–19 prepares us for the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these nineteen verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God tests the faith that He has given us in order to show the fruit of it, in order to generously reward us for works His grace has given, and to use us and our works in His ongoing work.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 ▫ Read Genesis 22:1–19

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v1 say that God was doing to Abraham? What three things does God say about Isaac to Abraham in v2? When did Abraham get going (v3)? What did he do, and whom did he take? How had he determined where to go? How long did it take him to get there (v4)? What instructions did he give the young men (v5)? Whom did he say would go? Whom did he say would come back? What did Abraham give Isaac to carry (v6)? What did Abraham carry? What do Abraham and Isaac call each other in v7? What does Isaac ask? What is Abraham's answer in v8? What four things does Abraham do when they arrive at the spot in v9? What does Isaac do (and not do)? What does Abraham do in v10? Who calls out to him in v11? From where? What does He say at first? What does He tell Abraham not to do in v12? What does He say that Abraham has shown? What does Abraham see in v13? What does he do with it? What does Abraham call the place (v14)? Why? What happens after the burnt offering and the naming of the place in v15? By what does the angel of Yahweh swear in v16? To what action does He say that He is responding? What will He do to Abraham's descendants (v17)? What will Abraham's descendants possess? In whom will all the nations of the earth be blessed (v18)? Because of what? Where does this passage "end up" (v19)?

God has already made promises to Abraham that include the things that are promised by the end of this passage. So, what does it mean that God was "testing" Abraham in v1, and "now I know that you fear God" in v12, and "because you have done this thing" in v15, and "because you have obeyed My voice" in v18? God is showing some things about how good works function in those who have been made right with God by faith.

First, good works show that God has not just done things for us, and promised things to us, but is also doing the corresponding work in us. Several times so far in Genesis, Abraham's doubt and fear have led to sin. But God now "tests" him to give an opportunity for the faith that has grown to express itself. Didn't God know before this event that Abraham feared God? Of course! But what v12 is saying is that when believers demonstrate Godly character, God observes not merely the action but His work of grace in the heart that is producing that action.

Second, God has chosen to do much good *in response to* good works. There is an expression of His justice and His pleasure in what is good that God delights to reward them. We know that Abraham does not do well enough *to be worthy* of reward. Yet here, and many other places in Scripture, God is still *pleased to reward* those imperfect good works for the sake of Christ from Whom comes any and all goodness in us. The reward is not according to our merit, but according to His grace and Christ's own merit.

Third, God has chosen to do much good *by means of* believers' good works. It is this son Isaac, whom Abraham was willing to devote to God by death, that God will devote to Himself by his life—God will bring the Christ through Isaac, and God will bless all the nations of the earth through Isaac, in part because Abraham has obeyed God's voice.

Ultimately, however, we still deserve that death, represented in the knife. And we still deserve the wrath of Hell, represented in the fire. But God Himself will indeed provide the Lamb. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world—even our Lord Jesus Christ! Abraham did not withhold his only son, whom he loved (v2, 16), but God spared him. Yet, when it came to God's beloved Son, with Whom He is well-pleased (Mat 1:1; 3:17; 17:5), God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all (Rom 8:32)!

What makes you righteous in God's sight? What use, then, are your good works?

Sample prayer: O Lord, You have promised everlasting blessedness, and You have secured it in Christ. Forgive us for when we think that we may earn blessing or that blessedness relies upon us. But forgive us also for when we think that good works are not worthwhile, or that You will not reward them. Grant unto us to walk in those good works that You have prepared beforehand, knowing that they will come through Christ, for Whose sake also You will reward them. We ask this through His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP78B "O Come, My People" or TPH234 "The God of Abraham Praise"

For more Hopwell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpcHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Genesis 22 verses 1 through 19. These are God's words.

Now, it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham and said to him Abraham. And he said, Here I am Then he said, take now your son, 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.

So, Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son, Any split the wood for the burnt offering and the rose. And went to the place of which God had told him, Then on the third day, Abraham lifted, his eyes and saw the place of far off.

And Abraham said to his young men stay here with the donkey, the lab and I will go yonder and worship and we will come back to you. So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac, his son. And he took the fire in his hand and a knife and the two of them went together.

But Isaac spoke to Abraham, his father and said, my father and he said here, I am my son and he said, look the fire and the wood, but Where is the land for burnt offering? And Abraham said, my son God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.

So the two of them went together, Then they came to the place of which God had told him and Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order. And he bound. Isaac his son and laid him on the altar upon the wood, Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son but the angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven and said, Abraham Abraham.

So he said here I am and he said, Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him For. Now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld, your son, your only son from me, the Abraham lifted his eyes and looked and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns.

So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son and Abraham called the name of the place. Yahweh will provide as it is said to this day in the mount of Yahweh. It shall be provided, Then the angel of Yahweh called to Abraham a second time out of heaven and said by myself.

I have sworn as Yahweh because you have done this thing and have not withheld, your son. Your only son blessing, I will bless you. And multiplying, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand, which is on the seashore and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies in your seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Because you have obeyed my voice. So Abraham returned to his young men and they rose and went together to be our Sheba and Abraham dwelt at their Sheba So far, the reading of God's inspired and an errant work.

Now, this passage is used in the New Testament. Wow, as a example of Abraham's faith, Hebrews 11 even says that Abraham when God told him to sacrifice the son about him, he had promised that he would be the son of promise. The son, the air of the covenant that Abraham assumed that God would raise him from the dead.

And so he obeys in faith and if he knows that Isaac won't stay dead, then It is even plausible to say that it is not literally murder because he knows that Isaac will not ultimately die from this. Isaac is married yet. Doesn't have kids yet. You'd have to be resurrected.

And yet, That seems so hard for us that we reading our Bibles thinking through that. Even guided by Hebrews chapter 11, thinking through that are likely to think that really be all of his hard for us a hard. Do you think it was for Abraham with his own son and the Holy Spirit?

Giving us the dialogue and such tender terms, has Isaac spoke to Abraham. His father were seven and he said my father and he answered Here, I am my son and he asked him about the lamb and Abraham begins. His answer with my son, God will provide for himself the Lamb and so forth.

Very hard for Abraham. But God had given Abraham faith. Abraham is justified through faith in chapter 15 and just as

Romans 4 and James 2, Think about Abraham's faith and response or in relation to what comes after in terms of circumcision, in terms of this event, This is the fruit of Abraham's faith. God saves people not through what they do, but entirely through what Jesus has done. But he doesn't leave people all the way they were.

When he saved them, he transforms them. Christ is a complete Savior and they grow in holiness. And at the last, they shall be not only perfected in holiness, but even have glorified, resurrection bodies. So introducing the passage the Holy Spirit. Says it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham and he said to him Abraham.

So the whole thing is presented to us as a test of faith, a proof of what God had given Abraham. Well, the faith that was in Abraham and when Abraham stretches out his hand, in verse 10, to take the knife to sleep, his son, the angel of Yahweh calls to him from heaven and says Abraham Abraham.

And he says, here I am first August, says, Do not. Let your hand on the lad or do anything to him for. Now, I know that you fear. God Now Did God like not know before whether or not Abraham? Really feared him. God is the one who gave Abraham faith.

God is the one who gave Abraham the fear of the Lord but God gives us opportunities. Not only to show the faith that he has given us so that we can see it. And we more often than not or amazed because we know our hearts and He brings us through something.

And we are so grateful to him, that he's done, that work and us and we see the fruit of his grace, the fruit of the faith that he's given us by that grace and we give thanks and rejoice. But he already knew that the faith was there. And yet, he loves to reward.

His people Scripture talks about rewards for believers in many different places. Oh, we know that Jesus is our only righteousness and that the reward ultimately isn't because we are worthy. It's because Christ is worthy and yet God who has producing the fruit of faith in Christ and union with Christ in our life is also generous and gracious to reward that fruit.

And so, he says, After he tells him, don't do anything to him and Abraham at that point. Having been stopped. He sees the ram, and sacrifices the ram, and his reminded, of course that God himself is the one who provides the sacrifice. Just like he Abraham himself, had told, Isaac earlier, the sacrifices finished and then verse 15, he says by myself, I have sworn.

That's always because you have done this thing and not withheld, your son. You're only son Blessing, I'm a bless multiplying. All multiply your descendants As the stars of heaven in the sand, which is on the seashore and your descendants suppose, that's the gate of their enemies. That's the new addition to the promises that he's received before in your seed.

All the nations of the earth shall be blessed. So God is please. Reward Abraham, and he's also pleased to use Abraham's faith, Abraham's the fruit of Abraham's faith because from Abraham will come. The Lord Jesus. And this is a great privilege to be the one through whom God brings the Christ into the world.

Well, you will not get to be the one through whom God brings the Christ into the world, but when God helps you to show the fruit of your faith and loving him obeying him serving him, sacrificing for him. You may have all of these things. You may have the fact that God has given you faith, displayed so that you can see it and be encouraged and be thankful.

You will find that God rewards the good that you do not because your good is worthy enough, but because it comes from Christ, and because God is pleased and generosity and grace to reward. Good works that are done in Christ and You will get as part of your award to see the Lord employ.

The good works that he sustained you in doing in the first place. Give you the privilege of having a part in his work and this world. So there's much incentive for good works here, but the greatest incentive is that God himself provides the sacrifice. He's the one who's made promises that cannot be broken.

And even if he has to raise someone from the dead, He will keep them. And so he's worthy of following, no matter what. Let's pray and asking to help us follow him, no matter what.

Lord, we thank you for the reminder that you do. Bring us into Providence. That tests our faith, that gives us opportunities to see fruit of the faith that you have given us by grace, help us Lord in the time of testing not to stumble, help us to trust you, help us to be sure like Abraham that you would even raise from the dead.

If necessary to keep all of your good promises, we thank you that you are. So generous to reward, even our good works in perfect as they are, we thank you for Christ. And for your spirit who applies Christ to us. So that we may do that which is good independence upon your grace, we pray that you would use us.

That we would have the privilege of being those through who's obedience, you are pleased to glorify your name and to bring blessing to all of your elect. We ask that you would help us in all of these ways of the ongoing ministry of your spirit. In Jesus name. Amen.