

## Read Genesis 22:1-2

- Chapter 22 begins with the phrase “after these things.” What “things” is it talking about?
- We are told that “God tested Abraham” (KJV – “tempted”). What is the purpose of this test?
- Note: “It’s important to remember that the reader is the only one who is informed that this was a test. Abraham did not learn of this until later. God did not say: ‘Abraham, don’t you worry about the outcome. This is only a test.’” (*People’s Bible: Genesis p.182*)
- What does the following verse add to our understanding of these events?
  - 2 Chronicles 3:1 – Then Solomon began to build the Lord’s temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah where the Lord had appeared to his father David...

## Read Genesis 22:3-5

- How did Abraham respond to the Lord’s command?
- Evaluate God’s command in light of Hebrews 11:17-19 and James 1:2-4.
  - Hebrews 11:17-19 – By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and he was offering his unique son, the one it had been said about, Your seed will be traced through Isaac. He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead, and as an illustration, he received him back.
  - James 1:2-4 – Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

- Why did the distance to Moriah make obedience even more difficult?
- When Abraham saw the place for the sacrifice of Isaac, why did he leave behind his servants?
- What strikes you in Abraham's words to his servants: "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you."?

Read Genesis 22:6-8

- Note the wealth of detail. Each step must have been agony for Abraham, yet the text says virtually nothing about that. To obey God's command, Abraham had to disregard everything his heart and his reason told him.
- What similarities do you see between this account and the sacrifice that would later happen in this same location?

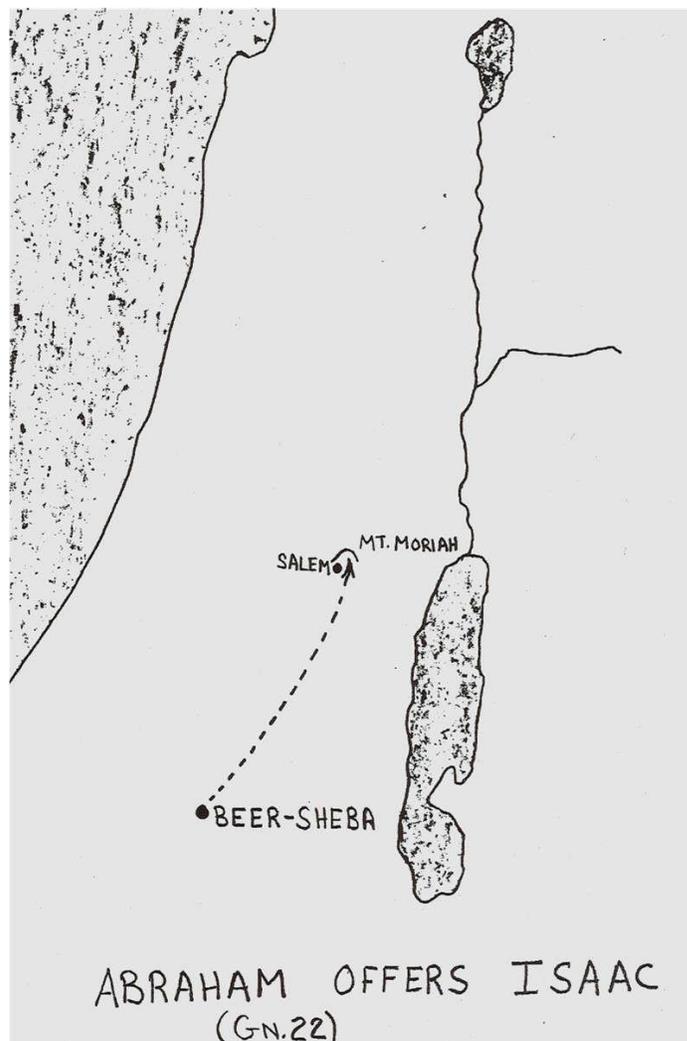
Read Genesis 22:9-14

- It would be difficult to take a knife to his own son. Yet there was an even more difficult aspect to God's test. What was that?
- "If there was a conflict between God's command and his promise, resolving that conflict was God's business. Abraham's business was to put God first, and he drew his knife" (*People's Bible: Genesis p.182*). Apply this statement to our lives.
- If God had originally commanded the sacrifice of Isaac, why did he not insist that Abraham go through with it?

- Who was it that stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac?
- Did you catch Abraham's prophetic statement in verse 14?

Read Genesis 22:15-19

- God here repeats the promises that had earlier been given to Abraham. What extra promise is added here?
- Note how following the test, they all return home again.



Read Genesis 22:20-24

- “Half a century had passed since Abraham had left Haran, five hundred miles to the north, in present-day Syria. In that time Abraham had most likely lost contact with his only surviving brother, Nahor. Now a report reached Abraham about his brother’s family.”  
*(People’s Bible: Genesis p.187)*
  
- What is the importance of Moses including this partial genealogy in the Bible?

*“The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.”*  
(Christian Worship Supplement 714:1)