

**God Provided a Sacrifice**  
*Abraham's Faith and Obedience*  
Genesis 22:1-14

**Faith Requires Trusting in God's Plan (Gen. 22:1-8)** Let's recap a little. Abram receives a covenant promise from God (Gen. 12:2-3) ***"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*** Although Abram receives this from God, he waits and nothing happens. Isaac wasn't born until 25 years later, after the promise from God was made. The waiting on this promise became so unbearable that Abram and Sarai both took matters into their own hands. How often does this happen in our lives? Very often, right? In Gen chapter 16; Sarai, Abram's wife, has an Egyptian servant named Hagar. Sarai tells Abram to go and have a child with Hagar, because Sarai can't have children. Abram and Hagar have Ishmael, which many theologians believe is the father of Islam, the Muslim religion. In Gen chapter 17 the promise of a child with Abram and Sarai is made. Listen to Gen. 17:15-19: ***"And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."*** So, Isaac is born and God tests Abraham. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son. Abraham has taken matters into his own hands before and maybe realizes that the best plan is God's plan even when His ways can't always be seen or even don't make sense. Look at verse 5. Abraham is going to worship God. This is important for us to realize that even when we don't understand God's plan, we can trust it! We must worship God, even when we don't understand Him! In verse 8 Abraham trusts that God will provide a sacrifice. God's plan is that there must be the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:22 ***"Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."*** God's plan often looks different than our plans, but we can trust Him.

**Faith Resolves to Trust in God's Power (Gen. 22:9-10)** This passage is hard to read. Here is the only son of Abraham. Abraham has been given this promise, and according to Gen. 17, Ishmael is not part of the promise, Isaac is. So, Abraham is about to sacrifice his only son and he believes that God will resurrect Isaac from the dead to fulfill this promise or that God will

provide another way through a substitute offering! I want you to see the foreshadowing of Jesus here. God, sent His only son, to be the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. Jesus took our place on the alter. Romans 6:23 ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** The writer of Hebrews records this about Abraham’s faith in Heb. 11:17 ***“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”*** We worry about so much don’t we? We must trust in the power of God, only He is able to do the unthinkable, the unimaginable, the unexplainable! We’ve seen His power before, yet we suffer from short-term memory loss. May this passage bolster your faith! Only God’s power is able to raise the dead! Only God’s power is able to save you and I from eternal separation from God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Faith Rest in God’s Promise (Gen. 22:11-14)** God has provided a sacrifice throughout the ages for the forgiveness of our sins. It started in the garden, when Adam and Eve realized that they had sinned, God sacrificed an animal to cover them with clothing. The blood that was shed covered their sins. The ram caught in the thicket represents the sacrifice promised for God’s people in Jesus Christ! Listen to Paul’s words to the Colossians recorded in Col 1:19-20 ***“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”*** Jesus made the payment that you and I owed, yet He took our place! Jesus is the righteous, unblemished lamb! So, we rest in the promise of God for eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, our eternal hope! It’s not by happenstance that today is March 16<sup>th</sup>, 3/16 and that John 3:16 is a clear presentation of God’s promise! ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*** John 3:16

Have you trusted in God’s plan?

Have you trusted in God’s power?

Have you found rest in God’s promise through a relationship with Jesus Christ?