

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapter 22

Abraham is one of the most well known and celebrated figures in the Old Testament. He was called “*the friend of God.*” But his life was not always easy and on several occasions God called on him to relinquish, or sacrifice, some aspect of his life. At a later stage in his life, he was called to leave his homeland and establish a new nation. He later deferred to his nephew, Lot, regarding the choice of land. God also asked him to separate from his first son, **Ishmael**, born to Hagar. In **chapter 22**, God once again asks Abraham to offer his other son, **Isaac**, as a sacrifice. With each of these challenges, his faith was severely tested and he was found to be a man who wholeheartedly trusted in God. The challenge for us today from this chapter is to evaluate our own faith and trust in the the holy and living God during times of difficulty.

Chapter 22 can be outlined as follows:

Abraham’s Sorrow.	The Command	22:1-8
Abraham’s Submission.	The Commitment.	22:9-10
God’s Substitute.	The Culmination.	22:11-24

There are a number of key words, or phrases, which you should look for in the text, that have application to your life today. They are: “***Here am I***” (availability, obedience) and “***God will provide***” (trust, confidence, faith). This chapter can also be seen typologically (symbolically) as a picture of the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross on our behalf. This doctrine of substitutionary atonement is clear in this chapter.

1. Read **22:1-6**. The distance from Abraham’s home in southern Canaan in Beersheba to Mount Moriah was around 50 miles, and required 3 days of travel. Mount Moriah, today, is the site of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. From this passage, what stood out to you, or most interested you?
2. In this suspenseful and dramatic account in **22:7-10**, read of Abraham’s submission and obedience to God’s command. Knowing that Abraham had a clear understanding of God’s promise that Isaac would be used to fulfill God’s covenant, and that his family had waited many years for this miraculous birth, what might have been God’s purpose in orchestrating this event?

3. Read **Hebrews 11:17-19**. Does this New Testament commentary on **Genesis 22** give any further insight into the events of this chapter?

4. Time seems to stand still at the end of **22:10**. Abraham either believes that God would provide a substitute ("*lamb*") at the last minute (**22:8**), or that Isaac would be resurrected (**Hebrews 11:17-19**). From **22:11-12** what occurs next? Who is the "**angel of the Lord**" in **verses 11-12**? Does it appear that Abraham passes the test of faith that is presented to him in this passage?

5. There is another surprise turn of events in this story in **22:13-14**, What happens?

6. The Angel of the Lord speaks to Abraham for a second time in **22:15-18** and reiterates the details of the Abrahamic Covenant. What are some of these details? From **verse 18**, how does He relate this to the Isaac event earlier in the chapter?

7. How does this dramatic narrative come to a quiet conclusion in **22:19**?

8. **Chapter 22** concludes with some personal information regarding Abraham's brother **Nahor** and his offspring who still lived back in Mesopotamia, From **22:23**, and **24:67** who was **Rebekah**?