

Abraham Lifted His Eyes

Genesis 22:1-19; 1 Peter 1:1-25 / 1 John 4:1-21

I. God Put Abraham on Display

A. God called Abraham. And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (Genesis 22:1-2)

B. Abraham's response is a pattern familiar to the faithful. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. (Exodus 3:4) along with Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. (Isaiah 6:8)

C. Friendship with God is not an easy process. The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts. (Proverbs 17:3) along with Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)

D. Here is the platform for Paul's great doctrine of consolation. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

E. Unrestricted confidence displays faith. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 1:7)

II. Abraham Trusted God

A. How much do you trust God? Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But Many That Are First Shall Be Last; and the Last First. (Mark 10:28-31)

B. By faith Abraham had already given up the world for God. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. (Hebrews 11:8)

C. Now Abraham was being asked to trust God to do the impossible Only on the Strength of God's Promise. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed

be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. (Hebrews 11:17-19)

D. Can God resolve life's impossibilities? And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. (Genesis 22:7-8)

E. Abraham turned to God against all expectation, common experience, and worldly wisdom. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. (Genesis 22:13-14)

F. God explained the great mystery of grace. And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because Thou Hast Obeyed My Voice. (Genesis 22:15-18) along with Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. (Luke 17:33)

III. Embrace the Mysteries

A. Before Isaac's conception the Angel asked the ultimate question of faith. Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. (Genesis 18:14)

B. With God the impossible is not impossible as it is with people. But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)

C. John the Baptist related the substitutionary atonement of Jesus to the display of grace to the Father of the Faithful on Mt. Moriah. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

D. Before there was a Mt. Moriah or even an Abraham there was a promise of redemption in the heart of the Trinity. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (1 Peter 1:19-20)

E. From start to finish, the gospel message announces the substitutionary grace of God the Father. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of

the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. (Revelation 5:6) along with Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (Revelation 5:12)