

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Chapter 22 Study Guide

May 23, 2004

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Genesis 22

1. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

Here we come to the “Holy of Holies” of the Old Testament. Our Father of Faith faces his “final.” The language is important here – make sure to notice and highlight verse 2, “take now your *only* son?” This is not true physically, but to God, the son of the flesh was not part of the equation!

Notice Abraham’s promptness in verse 3, there was no delay! A lesson we should be quick to learn: when you hear God tell you to do something, don’t put it off! This story is full of idioms, and metaphors – check out the third day reference in verse 4. Notice the faith statement of Abraham at the end of verse 5 – “we will come back to you.”

Keep in my mind as you are reading this chapter that Isaac is not a child. He was probably a young man, probably in his early thirties. Abraham was close to triple digits in age, so this would require that Isaac was “in agreement” with what was to take place. The Hebrew bears this out in verse 6 (walking together in Hebrew literally means “in agreement”)

As we start verse 8, we need to look at geography. The place they ascended to is known as Mt. Moriah, known today as the Temple Mount. It was on this same Mount that the following and preceding events occurred:

1. The Jews believe that it was here that Adam and Eve were created
2. This is the spot that Solomon built the temple and the Ark of the Covenant rested.
3. Muslims believe that it was at this very spot that Abraham offered his son, but the son was not Isaac, but Ishmael.
4. Christians believe that we have a literal fulfillment of verse 8; that God does provide Himself to be the lamb that was slain “once for all.” In other words, Christians believe that Jesus Christ was crucified in the same vicinity, but outside the city walls.

With his grand finale finished, God again gives him his grade and his reward (see verse 17-18).

Soul-Winner So What

When was the last time God provided a ram in the thicket for you?

Small Group Question

1. Make a list of all the “faith steps” Abraham took in this chapter.



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

4. Gospel/ Prophecy/ Pictures of Christ

Genesis 22:1-2

After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

In this chapter we see a *type*, or *figure*, of Christ that is given by instruction of the Angel of the Lord to Abraham. Before we study the command of the Angel of the Lord, let's first take a look at what a *type*, or *figure*, of Christ is. Theologian Donald K. Campbell says that a *type* of Christ is:

An Old Testament institution, event, person, object, or ceremony that has reality and purpose in biblical history, but which also by divine design foreshadows something yet to be revealed. Types are therefore prophetic in nature, and of many types we find in the Old Testament speak prophetically of Christ in some way...It is important, however, to distinguish types and prophecies in their respective forms. A *type* prefigures coming reality; a prophecy verbally delineates the future. One is expressed in events, persons and acts; the other is couched in words and statements. One is in passive form, the other active."



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Two extremes should be avoided when studying typology. There are some interpreters who see too much as being just *typical* in the Old Testament. Directly opposite to this would be those who see all alleged *types* as a case for forced exegesis (explanation or commentary on the meaning of a text). Both of these views are extreme and unbalanced therefore ought to be avoided.

Legitimate *types* in the Old Testament are *types* not because man said so, but because God is sovereign in the revelation process. The reason that some OT persons or things foreshadowed someone or something in the NT is that God planned it that way.

Soul-Winner So What

How does a study such as this better equip you to “*Be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within you?*”

Small Group Questions

- 1) In Genesis 22:1
 - What is the difference between testing and temptation? (James 1:2-4, 12-18)
- 2) What and who does verse 2 remind you of?
 - Do you see the *typology*?
- 3) What was Abraham confident of in verse 8?
 - What imagery does this *typology* provide for us that have come to pass? (John 1:29)
 - Do you trust God to make provision in your life spiritually, emotionally and materially? Why or why not?
- 4) Who speaks in verse 11?
 - The One who speaks in verse 22 claims to be Who in verse 12?
- 5) In verses 15-18 the Lord mentions 3 elements of blessing to Abraham.
 - What are they?
- 6) Can you define the *type* of Christ have we seen presented in chapter 22?

5. Attributes of God

God tests us-

¹ Now it came to pass after these things that **God tested Abraham**, and said to him, "Abraham!"

And he said, "Here I am."

God sometimes requires us to give what we love to Him-

² 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."



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

God instructs us-

³So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went **to the place of which God had told him.**

⁹Then 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.

God honors obedience-

¹⁷ **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.**

Small Group Question

- 1) God wants our all. What are some examples of things you love that you've had to give to God? What has been the result?

6. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

1) Why did God ask Abraham to perform human sacrifice?

Heathen nations practiced human sacrifice, but God condemned this as a terrible sin (Lev. 20:1-5). God did not want Isaac to die, but he wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in his heart so it would be clear that Abraham loved God more than his promised and long-awaited son.

Soul-Winner So What

God will test us. He does this not to trip us up and watch us fall, but to deepen our capacity to obey Him. This will lead to the development of our character as Christians. When we are tested, we can complain, or we can try to see how God is stretching us and developing our character. When a test is successfully completed and you reflect back on how you handled it, you will clearly see the signature of God. Thus, Abraham and the sacrifice of his son. There is only one reason a ram that lives in the wild would be caught by his horns in a bush: God!

Small Group Question

1) Is there anything or anyone you love more than God? (Exodus 20:3)

Is God even more important than food? Do you get grumpy when you don't eat? What if your meal isn't exactly the way you want it? When you miss time with God does your spirit crave the Word? Do you give God a tithe of your time? Do you put time with God in your daily planner, or do you just squeeze him in?



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Ask God to change your heart and allow nothing, or no one, to be before Him in your life. Do everything you can to put Him first, not solely in thought and words, but in obedience to His standard for your life. Reflect on John 3:16, and if you saw the Passion of the Christ, relive what God Almighty allowed *His* one and only Son to endure for a sinner like you and I (Romans 5:8).

- 2) Are you being tested now? Are you telling God to “let you out,” or are you looking for the lesson being taught so you can graduate on to a bigger next lesson? Remember, the bigger the test the bigger the reward.

7. Geography

