

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

THE SOURCE - VI

The Test – Genesis 22

Pastor Miles McPherson – December 9, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. If you are still rusty with Groups 2.0, or are not using it at all, please check out our video tutorials on Leader Central that will walk you through the process. Moving forward it is important that we are all using the system effectively. Please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com or jason.mayer@sdrock.com if you have any further questions.
3. If you know somebody that is interested in stepping up to lead a Community Group please have them go to <http://www.sdrock.com/communitygroups/lead/> to fill out an application to get started today!

MEMORY VERSE

“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that in on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies.” (Genesis 22:17)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Review the Sunday Message
 1. Your test will be consistent with **Jesus'** test.
Genesis 22:1-5
 2. Your test will reveal the **powerful** hand of God.
Genesis 22:11-14
 3. Your test performance will determine **future** rewards.
Genesis 22:17-18



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – THE SOURCE, PART SIX

Study Introduction:

The reality and fulfillment of Abraham's blessings in Genesis was never fully realized in his lifetime. His life has an interesting plot. He was removed from his father and his culture (Gen. 12), travelled into dangerous contexts such as Egypt, Sodom, and other lands (Gen. 13, 14, 18-20), given the covenant through circumcision (Gen. 17), has an extra marital affair with Hagar (Gen. 16), gives birth to two sons that will polar opposite outcomes (Gen. 16, 21), and so much more. Paul states Abraham is the "father of faith in Rom. 4, yet if we study his life slowly we may come to a different conclusion.

What does this mean? How has Abraham established this life of faith? In relation to our topic and study at hand, how did he receive the blessing, and what was the blessing? In Genesis we see God establishing the covenant with Abraham six different times (Gen. 12:1-3; 4, 5; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-27; 22:15-18), and every one of those times confirm that the "blessing" is a future reality, not temporal. Of course, Abraham received wealth, and landed in the plush land of Canaan, but the blessing always referred to the covenant of God making Abraham a great and mighty nation. As we continue to read the Old Testament we see the covenant reaffirmed in three different ways:

1. The promise of land in the Palestinian Covenant (Deut. 30:1-10)
2. The promise of kingly descendants in the Davidic Covenant (22 Sam. 7:12-16)
3. The promise of blessing in the "Old" and "New" Covenants (Ex. 19:3-6; Jer. 31:31-40)

Based on these three affirmations of the covenant, it still hasn't been fulfilled, but is still a future reality. This reality finally meets its climax in the arrival of Jesus into the world, and is finally fulfilled in his death, resurrection and ascension (Heb. 8).

In our application of the "The Source" of all blessings, this helps us to put into perspective what blessings will look like from God's perspective. It will also help us in understanding what is God's best in our lives today as we prepare for his eminent return someday. Let's look at one perspective [of many] potential perspectives of what the "blessing" could look like in Revelation 21-22. If you are used to reading Revelation from a strictly apocalyptic perspective stop reading it that way and look at it from the promise that we are of the chosen of the groom, his bride, that will dwell with him forever (Rev. 19:6-8).

Study Questions:

1. Read Rev. 21:1-8 and Rev. 22 together as a group. Identify the key concepts that John mentions that will happen after God establishes his eternal reign:
 - There will be a new heaven and new earth.
 - A new holy city, Jerusalem, is coming down from heaven.
 - God is establishing an eternal dwelling place amongst his people.
 - He will remove all sin, pain, sickness, and death forever.
 - God establishes he is the "beginning and the end" and he will be the eternal life source for all whom are his bride.
 - In the midst of this throne establishment he will separate those who are his bride and those who are not.
 - God declares the goodness of the earth to supply life, and the he alone sustains it, in our very presence.
 - We will see his face and we will worship him forever out of awe and adoration for his good name and glory.
 - Jesus will reign in glory at his coming!



