

## **GOD DID TEMPT ABRAHAM**

**November 8, 2015**

**Genesis 22-19**

“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.” Hebrews 11:17

Among the dramatic events of the Old Testament, Abraham’s offering of Isaac may be unrivaled. It is more than a mere factual event. Its typology is undeniable—a portrait of God the Father offering His Son, Jesus Christ, in sacrifice.

In this event God 1) tested Abraham (v. 1), 2) commanded him to sacrifice his son (v. 2), 3) specified the exact location for this sacrifice (vv. 2, 3, 4, 9), 4) stopped Abraham from killing Isaac (v. 11), 5) proved Abraham’s faith (v. 12), 6) provided a substitute for Isaac (v. 13), 7) reaffirmed His covenant to Abraham (vv.16-18), and 8) made an example of Abraham’s faith (Hebrews 11:17-19). What does this event teach us about God?

1. God is absolutely sovereign in testing and in blessing His people. His rule is marked by august majesty, power and purpose. For Abraham, this was an excruciating experience, from which flowed enlarged usefulness and blessing from God. It was designed by God to conform Abraham to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28-29), that God might be all in all (Eph. 1:7-12; I Cor. 15:26-28).

2. God tests his people, and His testing is always to prove them—to cultivate and bring to light their fear of God (v. 12; Job 1:8-12; 2:3-7; 42:1-17). Job’s sufferings wrought this effect: “In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly” (Job 1:22).

3. God sanctifies His people. These texts, although unwritten when Abraham lived, yet define God’s purposes in dealing with all of His people:

Exodus 20:3 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Matthew 22:37 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

I John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

4. God confirms His promises to His people (vv. 15-18). His promises are confirmed amid our trials.

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5, 6).