

Walking in Faith:
Abraham and Isaac

Test of Faith

God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac

Moses uses several narrative techniques

1) Explicit Naming

Reveals the Covenantal importance of God's children

2) Explicit Relationship Stating

Reveals what Abraham is thinking and feeling

3) Narrative Time Dilation

Reveals how Abraham is experiencing this test of faith

Explicit Naming

Genesis 22:1-11

After these things God tested **Abraham** and said to him, “**Abraham!**” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” 3 So **Abraham** rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son **Isaac**. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day **Abraham** lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then **Abraham** said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” 6 And **Abraham** took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on **Isaac** his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And **Isaac** said to his father **Abraham**, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 **Abraham** said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, **Abraham** built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound **Isaac** his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then **Abraham** reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “**Abraham, Abraham!**”

Relationship Stating

Genesis 22:1-12

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and **his son** Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and **the boy** will go over there and worship and come again to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac **his son**. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to **his father** Abraham, “**My father!**” And he said, “Here I am, **my son.**” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, **my son.**” So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac **his son** and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter **his son**. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld **your son, your only son**, from me.”

Names & Relationships

Genesis 22:1-12

After these things God tested **Abraham** and said to him, “**Abraham!**” And he said, “Here I am.” 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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So **Abraham** rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and **his son Isaac**. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day **Abraham** lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then **Abraham** said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and **the boy** will go over there and worship and come again to you.” And **Abraham** took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on **Isaac his son**. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And **Isaac** said to **his father Abraham**, “**My father!**” And he said, “Here I am, **my son.**” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” **Abraham** said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, **my son.**” So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, **Abraham** built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound **Isaac his son** and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then **Abraham** reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter **his son**. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “**Abraham, Abraham!**” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld **your son, your only son**, from me.”

Narrative Time Dilation

Genesis 22:1-6

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.

Narrative Time Dilation

Genesis 22:7-10

7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But...

The Lord Will Provide

Genesis 22:11-14

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Covenant Blessings

Genesis 22:15-18

15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Justified by Faith

Galatians 3

6 Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham...

29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

By Faith

Hebrews 11:17-19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Abraham's Covenantal Care

Genesis 24

¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”

The Servant's Vow

⁵ The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” ⁶ Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.” ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

The Servant's Prayer

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘**Please let down your jar that I may drink,**’ and who shall say, ‘**Drink, and I will water your camels**’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”