

October 22, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
A Tale of Two Sacrifices
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Genesis 22:1-14 (NIV 1984)

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. **4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5** He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." **6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, **7** Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" **8** Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. **9** When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. **12** "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." **13** Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

VS. 1 - 3

- Abraham's new assignment seems to threaten the promise originally given to him in Genesis 12.

Vs. 4 - 8

Hebrews: 11:17-19: *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.*

Vs. 9 - 14

- The crux of Christianity is found when our gaze shifts from desperation to deliverance.

Gospel Parallels in Genesis 22

Sacrifice Of Isaac	Sacrifice of Christ
Miraculous Birth (Genesis 18:11)	Miraculous Birth (Matthew 1:18-25)
Statement of love and sonship (Genesis 22:2)	Statement of love and sonship (Matthew 3:17)
Carrying the wood for his own sacrifice (Genesis 22:6)	Carrying the wood for his own sacrifice (John 19:17-18)
Willing submission (Genesis 22:9 + context of their age)	Willing submission (John 10:18)
Figuratively risen from the dead (Hebrews 11:19)	Literally risen from the dead: (Mark 16:6-9)
Figurative resurrection on the third day (Genesis 22:4, Hebrews 11:19)	Resurrection on the third day (Luke 24:36)
Sacrificed in the mountain region of Moriah (Genesis 22:2)	Sacrifice in the mountain region of Moriah (John 19:20, Hebrews 13:12 + geographical context)
God provided a substitutionary sacrifice for Isaac (Genesis 22:12-14)	God provided a substitutionary sacrifice for the world in Jesus (Romans 3:25)
The substitute provided was a ram (Genesis 22:13)	Jesus is called the Lamb of God (John 1:29)

Small Group Questions

1. What was something that you learned about this passage that you didn't know before?
2. How would you explain substitutionary atonement to a non-believer?
3. When we find ourselves in desperate circumstances, how can we remember to shift our gaze back to Christ?
4. What encouragements can we find from Abraham's example of both faith and failure throughout his life?