

NOTE: For exceptional students, I have created links online to other material related to this chapter. Go to <http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com> and type in the SEARCH BOX: Genesis 22-23 Links

## Abraham—Genesis 22-23

### Abraham Offers Isaac

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 22:1...** GOD DID TEMPT ABRAHAM—“The original here is very emphatic: **והאלהים נסה את אברהם** vehaelohim nissah eth Abraham, 'And the Elohim he tried this Abraham;' God brought him into such circumstances as exercised and discovered his faith, love, and obedience. Though the word tempt, from *tento*, signifies no more than to prove or try, yet as it is now generally used to imply a solicitation to evil, in which way God never tempts any man, it would be well to avoid it here. The Septuagint used the word **πειρασαε**, which signifies tried, pierced through; and Symmachus translates the Hebrew **נסה** nissah by **εδοξαζεν**, God glorified Abraham, or rendered him illustrious, supposing the word to be the same with **נש** nas, which signifies to glister with light, whence **נש** nes, an ensign or banner displayed. Thus then, according to him, the words should be understood: 'God put great honor on Abraham by giving him this opportunity of showing to all successive ages the nature and efficacy of an unshaken faith in the power, goodness, and truth of God.'" [Adam Clarke]. This note from Adam Clarke is a good explanation of how this text is NOT in conflict with James 1:13.
- 22:2...** MORIAH—“the Jews are divided about the reason of this name, some deriving it from a word (**k**) which signifies to "teach", and think it is so called, because doctrine or instruction came forth from thence to Israel; others from a word (**l**) which signifies "fear", and so had its name because fear or terror went from thence to the nations of the world (**m**); but its derivation is from another word (**n**), which signifies to "see", and which is confirmed by what is said [Gen 22:14](#)" [John Gill's *Exposition of the Entire Bible*].
- 22:12...** NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD—“...this is said after the manner of men, who know things with certainty when they come to pass, and appear plain and evident: or this may be understood of a knowledge of approbation, that the Lord now knew, and approved of the faith, fear, love, and obedience of Abraham, which were so conspicuous in this affair, see [Psa 1:6](#)" [Ibid.].
- 22:14...** JEHOVAH-JIREH—“(Jehovah will see or Jehovah will provide). The name given by Abraham, to the place on which, he had been commanded to offer Isaac, to commemorate the interposition of the angel of **Jehovah**, who appeared to prevent the sacrifice, [Gen 22:14](#), and provided another victim" [Smith's *Bible Dictionary*].
- 23:9...** MACHPELAH—“Portion; double cave, the cave which Abraham bought, together with the field in which it stood, from Ephron the Hittite, for a family burying-place (*Gen. 23*). It is one of those Bible localities about the identification of which there can be no doubt. It was on the slope of a hill on the east of Hebron, "before Mamre." Here were laid the bodies of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah (*Gen\_23:19; Gen\_25:9; Gen\_49:31; Gen\_50:13*)" [Easton's *Bible Dictionary*].
- 23:15...** FOUR HUNDRED SHEKELS OF SILVER—Using John Gill's estimate that this amount would be about 50 pounds, and according to the exchange rate of 1.9115 from the internet on 30 November 2004, this would amount to \$95.56, as the price Abraham paid for the burial place at Machpelah.

**II. Chronology.**BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.****III. Summary.**

It would be mighty difficult to find a more intense and graphic depiction of faithfulness to the Lord than that which is presented to us in Genesis 22! Abraham was not a sinless man (nor is there any, Rom 3:23), but he certainly should be lauded and held before us as FAITHFUL to the Lord. When God gave him a command, he got up early in the morning to go do that thing he was commanded (Gen 21:14; 22:3). Verse 5 helps us to see clearly that all that we do in life is NOT worship in that he and Isaac would go to the mountain and worship via sacrifice to the Lord. Isaac being a hundred years younger than his father, surely it was not by force that Abraham laid Isaac on that altar—it is my feeling that Abraham told Isaac what God had commanded him to do and that Isaac willingly laid there. Perhaps Abraham had told Isaac that they would have to leave it in God's hands, the Almighty God who has the power to raise one from the dead (Heb 11:19). The Lord did not allow Abraham to slay his son and provided a ram in his stead. The promise is here repeated to Abraham and he is told about the children of his brother, Nahor. Chapter 23 reveals the death of Sarah and the purchase of a burial place from Ephron, the Hittite at Machpelah.

**IV. Outline.**

1. Having been told to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice, Abraham obeys (Gen 22:1-10).
2. The Lord stays the hand of Abraham and provides a ram for the offering (22:11-14).
3. Abraham is commended and the promise is repeated (22:15-19).
4. Abraham learns about the family of Nahor, his brother (22:20-24).
5. Sarah dies at the age of 127 (23:1-2).
6. Abraham seeks a place for burying Sarah and buys Machpelah (23:3-18).
7. Abraham buries his wife (23:19-20).

**V. Questions.****True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham could have had Machpelah as a gift.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ The sons of Heth despised Abraham.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ The future wife of Isaac is mentioned in this reading.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham had to go out hunting to find a suitable offering for a sacrifice.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ The journey to Moriah took Abraham and Isaac about 3 days.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Regarding the lamb for a sacrifice, Abraham told Isaac: (a) we will find one; (b) God will provide; (c) you are the offering.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ After the scene at Moriah, Abraham dwelt at: (a) Salem; (b) Beersheba; (c) Gilgal.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ The name of God revealed in this reading is: (a) Jehovah-nissi; (b) Elohim; (c) Jehovah-jireh.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ When Abraham came to ask for the cave at Machpelah, he humbled himself by: (a) bringing gifts to the sons of Heth; (b) bowing before them; (c) shaving his head.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ At Machpelah the place of Sarah's burial was: (a) a cave; (b) in the valley; (c) it is not revealed.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. After receiving the command to offer up Isaac, his only son, Abraham is said to have arisen \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ to go where God had told him.
12. The place of Sarah's death was \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
13. "... as it is said to this day, in the mount of the Lord it \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_."
14. The cave at Machpelah was purchased from \_\_\_\_\_.
15. "And in thy \_\_\_\_\_ shall all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth be \_\_\_\_\_; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Genesis 20-21 Questions...** [01—True, Gen 21:25; 02—False, Gen 20:13; 03—False, Gen 21:4; 04—True, Gen 20:17; 05—True, Gen 21:18; 06—c, Gen 21:30; 07—c, Gen 21:16; 08—a, Gen 21:11; 09—a, Gen 20:6; 10—a, Gen 20:11; 11—in, dream, Gen 20:3; 12—sheep, oxen, gave, restored, Gen 20:14; 13—set, time, Gen 21:2; 14—with, grew, archer, Gen 21:20; 15—Beersheba, Gen 21:33.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **"Abraham Shows His Faith..."** [An outline from Wendell Winkler in *The Book of Genesis*, edited by Garland Elkins and Tom Warren, pp. 262-279].
  - 1) A faith that would obey (Gen 22:1-10; Heb 11:17; Js 2:21-22).
  - 2) A faith that would obey with exactness (Gen 22:2).
  - 3) A faith that would obey without remonstrance or questioning.
  - 4) A faith that would obey regardless of how unreasonable it seemed.
  - 5) A faith that would obey when emotions would have it otherwise.
  - 6) A faith that would obey when it was not convenient.
  - 7) A faith that would obey regardless of the cost.
  - 8) A faith that would obey in the absence of human approbation and applause.
  - 9) A faith that would obey God in deed, not just in word and intention.
  - 10) A faith that would obey with amazing promptitude.
  - 11) A faith that would obey with consequent blessings resulting therefrom.
  - 12) A faith that could be tried and found true.
2. **...I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you** (Gen 22:5). There has been in recent times an attempt to defend the concept that everything that we do in life is WORSHIP. Part of the reason for seeking a proof text for such a concept would be one's disinclination to show up at the regular worship assemblies, I suppose. However, here, at the very first verse where the word WORSHIP is found in the Bible, it is made clear that worship is something different from ordinary activities of one's day. There was purpose in the minds of the two who would go yonder and worship. In that day, just as in ours, we must worship in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24).
3. **And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked,...** (Gen 22:13). This surely was a most pleasant sight and Abraham surely would have been greatly delighted to substitute the ram provided by the Lord in the place of his only son. We ought to lift up our eyes and see the many ways God has blessed us, as well!
4. **And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old...** (Gen 23:1). The Lord allowed Sarah, the one who laughed, to have 37 years with her precious son, Isaac. What a gracious and benevolent God we serve!
5. **And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham...** (Gen 23:10). For many years anthropologists, archaeologists, and other

learned men were telling us that there was never any such people as the Hittites.

However, it has now been proved that scientists were WRONG, the Bible was RIGHT.

### VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

W B O U N D I S A A C W S X C D E R F V  
 B T I K N O W G T D L L Y H N M J U I K  
 U K H L O P O I K E A M I J U Y H N B G  
 T P R O C D E W S R I X Z F A Q W S X C  
 D H O E U R F V B E D B G T T Y H N J U  
 I T A N K F R A M F H L O P U E Y V F S  
 R R E N T D E C X F I S W Q A Z D X S E  
 W O E D D H C A V O M F R T G B N U M Y  
 B F G T Y H E N R M J F H I S S O N P E  
 U D Y S B G T W E E O D C X S W Q A Z X  
 S E E E L E D C O D S V F R T G B N H Y  
 U H J F M A J U A O I T P O L I U J M R  
 O C N I H Y Y E T G D B G V F R E D A C  
 F T C N D E T W S P X Z A O Q W S T X C  
 F E D K E S R F V B L G T Y D T L B G T  
 E R C D E R F V B G T A Y H L A N H Y U  
 R T N H N H Y T G B V F C I E D C X S W  
 E S T X S W E D C V F R U E T G B H Y U  
 D N N H A B R A H A M B N H Y T G V F E  
 I C D E R F V B G T Y H N H Y U J D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

**Genesis 22:9-13...** <sup>9</sup>And they came to the **place** which God had told him of; and **Abraham** **built** an **altar** there, and laid the wood in order, and **bound Isaac** his son, and **laid him** on the altar **upon the wood**. <sup>10</sup>And Abraham **stretched forth** his **hand**, and took the **knife** to **slay** his son. <sup>11</sup>And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. <sup>12</sup>And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now **I know** that **thou fearest God**, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. <sup>13</sup>And Abraham **lifted up** his **eyes**, and looked, and behold behind *him* a **ram** caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and **offered** him up for a burnt offering **in the stead of his son**.