

Genesis, pt2: Covenant, part 4 – God Provides the lamb

Genesis 21-22

MPS God sent His only Son Jesus as the perfect Lamb of sacrifice for sin so all who believe would be saved to eternal life.

OBJ Every person should believe in Jesus as God's Lamb of salvation because of the echoes of Abraham and Isaac.

INTRO We've considered God's covenant, the command to follow, the promise of His blessing, and the challenge to trust. Today we consider the last part of covenant, God completes His covenant by fulfilling His promise and providing a lamb.

READ Genesis 21:1-7

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ²And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." ⁷And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." Gen 21:1-7

Ten years pass from the time God makes to when He fulfills the promise to Abraham. "Why so long?" we may ask. God is working every second of those ten years to prepare Abraham and Sarah. Consider all He had done. The Lord visited and did to Sarah as He said and promised, and at the time of which He had spoken. Sarah conceives and gives birth to Isaac at ninety years old. Abraham names His son Isaac and circumcises him, according to God's command. Abraham was one hundred years old. Sarah was giddy all a-glow and lost in the wonder of her newborn. God was teaching Abraham and Sarah who He was; faithful, true, and good; and to trust Him and walk by faith in obedience. **God perfectly fulfills His promises in His way according to His Word to reveal to us that He is faithful and true, and that His will is good.**

APPL Can you remember a time when you had such an experience of "tasting God's goodness" in a similar way? A time when God came through, when a prayer was answered so distinctively and particularly, a need was met completely, or a desire fulfilled and satisfied. **When was the last time you were giddy and all a-glow in the wonder of God's goodness?**

TRANS This season has not been filled with much of that for many today, but that doesn't mean God is not good, or that He is not working. Now that the promise is fulfilled to Abraham, the greater work is still to be done.

[Gen 21:8-34] God clears the way for plan of redemption. When that which stands in contrast to God's redemption remains in or around us, it will always be a source of tension and frustration to God fulfilling His plan in us; whether a threat to tempt us away from trusting Him, or a hindrance to prevent us from experiencing the full joy that He intends for us. Abraham, at Sarah's demand, sent Ishmael and Hagar away because they were a continual reminder of their lack of faith and sinful attempt to subvert God's plan. And Abraham had to make things right, to make peace with Abimelech to re-establish faith where his sin had broken trust. **When God leads us into His redemption for us, He addresses all that remains to threaten His redemption in us, to purge, refine and purify us, so that His righteousness deepens to shine through us.**

TRANS It wasn't easy, but all seemed to be going perfect. But often God's biggest blessing brings with it our greatest test.

READ Genesis 22:1-19

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He 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." ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then 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." ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He 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." ¹³And 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. ¹⁴So 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." **Genesis 22:1-14**

First, I want you to see that God is the active agent here; He is the One at work to test Abraham regarding the blessing of His promise. God blesses His people for His purpose. We must be careful to pursue His purpose with His blessing, and not our own. [No matter what it may be, God's blessing to us must never become greater than God in us.](#)

God tells Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice. This could not have been anything other than earth-shattering to hear, but Abraham didn't hesitate. As before, without question or comment, Abraham obeyed. The writer slows time by highlighting every action Abraham performed; rose early, saddled his donkey, took two young men, and Isaac. He cut the wood and went to the place God told him. There is a silent resolve in the straightforwardness of these words.

Once they reach the place, Abraham tells the young men to wait. He takes Isaac on alone to worship. He placed the wood on Isaac to carry, he took the knife and fire, and they both went on together. Isaac, who is now likely in his teens, asks his father about the lamb for sacrifice. Abraham tells him God will provide. And they both went together. When they came to the place, Abraham built the altar, placed the wood, bound his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar. Abraham took the knife to slaughter his son, and at just that moment an angel called to him. He told him not to lay a hand on Isaac. God was satisfied that Abraham feared Him more than anything else. And immediately there was a ram in the bush. Abraham took it and offered it as the sacrifice. Abraham went all the way with Isaac because of one conviction, he knew the Lord would provide. And he named that place, "*The Lord will provide*". He didn't know how. It would not be easy. But if he had learned anything over the last 10 plus years it was this: [God is in control. I can trust His command. He knows what He's doing, and He has the power to do what He says. He will provide for His promise. He is faithful. He is true. He is good.](#)

Of all that Abraham knew, which could arguably seem severely lacking for the command He was given by God, this one thing He was confident of, God would provide the lamb for the sacrifice, because the sacrifice is what secures the covenant promise. And the covenant promise was walking with Him, Isaac.

[Do you see the One to whom Abraham and Isaac testify? Do you see the One who will come, who will lay down His life and take away our sin?](#) His Name is Jesus. [God alone saves because He fulfills the promise of His covenant in Jesus Christ.](#)

[God sent His only Son Jesus as the perfect Lamb of sacrifice for sin so all who believe would be saved to eternal life.](#)

Salvation belongs to the Lord; God is the One who saves. And He saves only by the One He sent, His only begotten Son, Jesus, who is the Christ. [OBJ Listen to the echoes of the perfect, spotless lamb of God; to hear and believe.](#)

[Gen 21:1] God promised that He would send a son through whom He would fulfill His promise.

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not



be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **Luke 1:26-27, 30-31**

[Gen 21:2-3] God sent the Son at the time He had appointed for His purpose.

²And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **Galatians 4:4**

³Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. **Matthew 1:24-25**

[Gen 22:1-5] God sent Abraham with Isaac to offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain. We should not try to make this less than it was; when Abraham rose to set out, He had already sacrificed Isaac in his heart.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He 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." ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then 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."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

[Gen 22:6] The son carried the wood for sacrifice, but the Father held the weight of the instrument of death.

⁶And 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 took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, **John 19:16b-17**

[Gen 22:7,9] The son trusted to rest in the Father's Will.

⁷And 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?"

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." **Matthew 26:39**

⁹When 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.

And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

⁶³But Jesus remained silent. **Matthew 26:62-63a**

But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. **Matthew 27:12**

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. **Acts 8:32**

[Gen 22:10-13] God provided a lamb for sacrifice, the perfect, spotless Lamb of God.

¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He 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." ¹³And 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.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29



*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:6-8***

[Gen 22:6, 8] Do not miss this twice repeated phrase (.6,.8), “*So they went both of them together.*” God was not passive in the death of Jesus His son. He was present and working, such that Isaiah says, “*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him*”^{Isaiah53:10a} There was no tension between the Son and the Father. The Son remained in perfect submission to the Father’s Will, even to the point of death. Jesus laid down His life for us in submission to the Father’s will.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Phil 2:8

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, **1 John 3:16***

The Father goes with the son to the altar of sacrifice, but here something distinct happens.

God the Father walked together with Jesus His only begotten Son all the way to the cross, to offer him as the propitiation for our sin. But Jesus did not come down from the cross, though mocked by the chief priests to save himself.^{Matthew27:41-44} He was the lamb God provided, but God turned his face away. And in that moment, he was alone to bear the sin of the whole world.^{1John2:2}

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Matthew 27:46

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

[Genesis 22:15-19] Once Abraham took the ram and offered it on the altar, he named that place, “*The LORD will provide*”, because there God provided a lamb for the sacrifice. The angel of the Lord returned a second time to repeat and affirm God’s blessing of the covenant on Abraham for trusting Him. And Abraham and Isaac returned.

Be careful not to forget how this passage begins; God tested Abraham. It was the greatest test of his life with only one right answer. And not knowing how it would come about, what it would look like, when it would happen, or even why this was the way God chose, Abraham never wavered, but walked every meticulous step in obedience to God holding this one conviction by faith, “*God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.*” [This conviction is the faith the Gospel gives when we hear and believe.](#)

The gospel is the ultimate test of life for all who hear; “*will you believe to trust and receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life?*”, OR, “*will you reject the love of God for you in Christ Jesus?*” Abraham believed and obeyed, knowing God had the power to do what He had promised. [The gospel is the good news of God for us, that calls us to believe in Jesus, repent of sin and receive forgiveness and cleansing from sin, and eternal life in Him.](#)

Friends, if you will lift up your eyes and look today, you too can see the perfect, spotless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, crucified, buried and resurrected, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. [Will you believe today and put your faith in Jesus?](#)

[God sent His only Son Jesus as the perfect Lamb of sacrifice for sin so all who believe would be saved to eternal life.](#)

