

Heroes of the Bible: (Abraham) Credited as Righteous

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – August 30, 2009

Genesis 22:1-13

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.

What can we learn from Abraham's story?

1. **GOD DESIRES COVENANT WITH YOU** CONTRACTS:

- An agreement or bargain where something is expected in return and you benefit from it.
- Based on an "If....., Then....." mentality.
 - ❑ IF you agree to do this, THEN I will do that.

COVENANTS:

- A commitment initiated solely out of Love for the benefit of the other person.
- Entered into based on what you offer to the other person, not what can be gained by you.

God's Covenant with Abraham:

Pack up & move @ 75 years old to the land I will show you (Gen 12:1)

- I will make you into a Great Nation (Gen 12:2)
- I will Bless you (Gen 12:2)
- I will make your Name Great (Gen 12:2)
- I will give you this "Promised" Land (Gen 12:7)
- I will make you a Blessing to Others (Gen 12:3) *fulfilled in Christ*

2. **GOD IS LOOKING FOR FAITHFULNESS & OBEDIENCE, NOT PERFECTION**

- Abraham did as the Lord had Instructed Him (Gen 12:4)
 - but he also -
- Lied about Sarah to protect himself in Egypt (Gen 12:11)
- Questioned God's promise - "How can I know?" (Gen 15:8)
- And even laughed when God promised Isaac in their old age (Gen 17:17)

3. **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

- God initially makes covenant with Abraham at 75 years old
- God makes Covenant of Circumcision with Abraham @ 99 years old - 24 years later (Gen 17:10)
- Sarah gives birth to Isaac at 90 years of age & Abraham was 100 (Gen 17:17; 21:2)

4. **GOD WILL TEST YOUR FAITH**

- Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen 22)

Exodus 6:5-8 (God fulfills His Covenant)

5 Moreover, **I have heard** the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and **I have remembered my covenant**. 6 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and **I will redeem you with an outstretched arm** and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 **I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God**. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

"GOD HIMSELF WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB"

"I WILL REDEEM YOU WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM."

(Jesus' arms were outstretched on the cross.)