

CHAPTER ANALYSIS FORM

Chapter: 22

Chapter Title: Abraham Tested

1. Chapter Summary:

1. Chapter 22
 - a. God commands sacrifice 1-2
 - b. Travel 3-5
 - c. Sacrifice 6-10
 - d. God provides 11-14
 - e. Covenant confirmed 15-18
 - f. Travel home 19
 - g. Rebekah's family 20-24

2. Previous passages
 - a. 12:1-3
 - b. 15:4-6
 - c. 17:17-21
 - d. 18:9-14
 - e. 21:1-7

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 22		
1-2	Some time after the birth of Isaac, God tests Abraham. He asks him to take Isaac and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on a mountain in the land of Moriah. God will let him know which mountain.	1-2	What a test! Child sacrifice was not unknown to the cultures surrounding Abraham but, as we learn later in the Law, it was abhorrent to God. So, asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac was really nothing more than a test. The word used for tested summarizes the whole of the passage. Notice how God refers to Isaac as Abrahams “only son.” We saw earlier that God blessed Ishmael, but Isaac was the child of promise.
3-5	The next day Abraham makes all the preparations necessary and sets out for the land of Moriah. Once in sight of the mountain he tells everyone to stay where they are and he and Isaac travel on to the place of worship and then return.	3-5	It appears that Abraham did not blink an eye when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac. What kind of faith does that take? It had to be difficult. But note how Abraham is positive both he and Isaac will return. It would have been a two-day trip from Beersheba to the area around Jerusalem with the sacrifice taking place on the third day.
6-10	Abraham and Isaac travel to the place of sacrifice. Isaac carries the wood while Abraham takes the knife and fire. Isaac, understandably, questions Abraham about the lamb for the offering. Abraham replies that God will provide a lamb. Once they arrive at the place specified by God, Abraham builds an altar, places the wood on it, ties up Isaac and places him on the wood, and prepares to slit Isaac’s throat with the knife.	6-10	All of this is standard procedure for offering a burnt offering to God with two important exceptions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abraham exercises amazing faith 2. The sacrifice is not usually a human. Especially not one that, if sacrificed, apparently would have nullified God’s promise to Abraham.

11-14	The angel of the Lord called Abraham's name, twice, then tells him not to sacrifice Isaac because his faith has been proven. Abraham sees a ram caught in a thicket and uses the ram as the burnt offering. Abraham then calls that place, "the Lord will provide," as he told Isaac on the way up.	11-14	Although not specified in this passage this is likely the place where Solomon built the temple. In hindsight, it is not too much of a stretch to see the idea of substitutionary atonement in the substitution of the ram for Isaac as the sacrifice. Along with this, the idea "God will provide," led to the development of the idea that God would provide the atoning sacrifice for sin.
15-18	God swears by himself that the covenant with Abraham will be fulfilled in part because Abraham's actions proved his faith. He then reiterates that Abraham's offspring will be too numerous to count and a blessing to all nations, but one, singular offspring will be the one who rules his enemies.	15-18	God will unilaterally execute the promise to Abraham.
19	The entire party returns to Beersheba where they continue to live.		
20-24	The genealogy of Rebekah.	20-24	This small genealogy marks a transition in Genesis from the story of Abraham to the story of Isaac.

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	Chapter 22	
1-10	Hebrews 11:17	
12	James 2:21-22	
16-17	Psalms 105:9 Hebrews 6:13-14 Luke 1:73-74	
18	Acts 3:25 Romans 4:13 Galatians 3:8	

6. Conclusions

7. One Personal Application