



Once and For All

By Taylor Braswell on February 14, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Genesis 22

Why would God command Abraham to sacrifice his own son? This is a question many people ask when they read Genesis 22. To understand why God would ask this, we first need to understand why God tests us. James 1:2-4 tells us that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness and that through trials and tests, we become more like Christ. Also, Church, we need to understand that although God is unchanging, He chooses to work in different ways throughout redemptive history. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, *“Long ago, at many times and many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.”* God revealed himself to His people in the Old Testament by sometimes audibly speaking to them. Other times he spoke through angels, priests, judges, and prophets. In the New Testament, God sent the Word into the world fully God and fully man in the person of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:19-20 says that we are members of the household of God, *“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone”*. In Jude we are commanded to contend for the faith, *“that was once for all delivered to the saints.”* Ask any builder and they will tell you that you do not lay a foundation more than once. God’s Word has been given to us as His sufficient and final revelation.

Many people today claim to hear audibly from God, some even claim that God told them to kill other people. We know from scripture that life is valuable because we are created in God’s image. In addition to this, God has commanded us not to murder or kill the innocent many places throughout the Bible. God speaks to us today through scripture and, although the Spirit may prompt you or bring to mind something you are commanded to do, He is not audibly speaking directly to you. Abraham was being tested by God and did not believe his son would die. In Genesis 22:5 Abraham tells the servants that he and the boy

would return. We are told Abraham believed God would provide the sacrifice, and in Hebrews 11:19, we are told that Abraham knew that God could even raise his son from the dead. The ram caught in thorns paints such a beautiful picture of the gospel in Genesis 22. Abraham's only son reminds us that God gave His only Son to die on our behalf for our sins. Isaac reminds us that we are spared from God's wrath because the perfect lamb of Christ Jesus was sacrificed for us. The reason God says he will bless Abraham's offspring is because God's plan has always been to send His Son to die for all types of people from every tribe tongue and nation. Abraham's sacrifice reminds us of God's sacrifice for us once and for all through Christ.

PRAYER: God, You are sovereign, and Your ways are higher than my ways. You alone are worthy of my affections and praise today. Thank You for revealing yourself to me through Your Word. Thank You for putting people in my life who shared Your Word with me and explained the gospel to me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Exodus 3

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