

# Lesson 1: Abraham and Isaac

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Central Point: Abraham was willing to offer up Isaac so God could send Jesus

God established a covenant with Abraham as the avenue by which the plan of God could be consummating in the earth. Back in Genesis 3:15, the Lord made a promise that He would send a Savior to destroy what Satan had done in the Garden of Eden through the fall of man.

- **Please Read: Genesis 15:1-6**
- God reiterates the Covenant He has made with Abram
- This time speaking more directly about a son coming from Abram and Sarai
- God made a promise to both of them, in spite of being so old, they would have a son
- Jeremiah 29:11 talks about God having plans for our lives

**Romans 12:2**, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- **Please Read: Chapter Genesis 16**
- **Question:** “Why do you think Abram and Sarai hatched this plan to help God out?”
- Sarai said in verse 2, “*The Lord has kept me from having children.*”
  - o Isaac’s wife Rebekah was also barren until Isaac prayed for her- Genesis 25:21
  - o Seems to me that the devil was trying to throw up obstacles to God’s covenant
- No family on this earth is perfect, there is plenty of dysfunction even in Abram’s house
- Interesting that God permitted Abram and Sarai to concoct this plan apart from him

God has given us a free will, and often times our own will conflicts with God’s perfect will for our lives. That does not mean that God can’t work the good out of our mistakes- Romans 8:28. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael; the father of the present day Arab nations- trouble for Israel since

- **Please Read: Galatians 4:21-31**
- Ishmael originated from Abram and Sarai trying to help God- born in the ordinary way
- Isaac was born as the result of a promise by God’s grace- born supernaturally
- **Question:** “In the past, have you ever tried to help God out and it backfired on you?”

Since Abraham is a covenant partner with God, his life, prayers and possessions are significant. He prays for Ishmael that he would live under God’s blessing and God honors that request and blesses Ishmael- Genesis 21:11-13.

## Abraham's Test

God's promise to provide Abraham an heir was fulfilled with the birth of Isaac. However, when Isaac was approximately 25 years old (according to Josephus), God asked Abraham to offer him as a burnt offering. Even though this was something pagans practiced with their firstborn, God was only testing Abraham, and as you know did not allow him to go through with it.

**Jeremiah 19:5**, "They have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as offerings to Baal - something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind."

Since Abraham was 100 years old at the time, and all the promises of God depended solely on him having a son. For a Middle-Easterner, like Abraham, to offer his only son's life was a far greater sacrifice than offering his own life. In the Middle-Eastern mind, to die without a son was the most terrible thing in life. Your whole life would be considered a failure. So in offering his only son, Abraham would prove in the most supreme way that he loved God and would be faithful to the covenant which God required.

- **Please Read: Genesis 22:1-18**
- Many scholars believe that Mount Moriah was where Jesus was crucified- Golgotha
- **Question:** "Why do you think God would ask Abraham to offer his only son in sacrifice?"

If Abraham would be willing to offer his son, then God would in turn would offer His according to the covenant- this would make it legal for Jesus to come to earth as our Savior! Satan could not challenge this, it was perfectly legal in the court of heaven.

- **Genesis 22:8**, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."
- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world- John 1:29
- **Please Read: Hebrews 11:17-19**

Notice the faith statement that Abraham makes in Genesis 22:5, stating that Abraham and Isaac would return back together. Abraham believed that even if God did take Isaac, He would resurrect him to be the first-born of the covenant children God had promised Abraham.

Isaac symbolizes humanity in that we deserved to die for our sin. However, Jesus is the Lamb of God that God had provided as our substitute. He took our place upon the altar of sacrifice and tasted death for us so we could receive eternal life. As our burnt offering for our sin, Jesus spent three days/nights in the heart of the earth as our ultimate substitute- Matthew 12:40. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at His own right hand.

**Ephesians 1:19-22; 4:8-10.**