

Genesis Bible Study Assignment

April 15, 2021

Reading: Genesis Chapters 22 & 23

Discussion Questions

Genesis Chapter 22

1. "Here I am" is the way faithful people respond when called. Abraham says this three times in this chapter. Who does he say it to?
2. Why do you think God referred to Isaac as Abraham's only son?
3. Do you think Abraham was sincere when he replied to Isaac's question by saying, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."? Why or why not?
4. How do you think Isaac felt about Abraham ...
 - a. When he and his father first set out on the journey?
 - b. When he asked his father where the sacrificial lamb was?
 - c. When his father bound him and laid him on the altar?
 - d. When Abraham offered the ram in his place?
5. Do you think God tests people the way Genesis chapter 22 says God did to Abraham? That is, do you think God asks people to do terrible things to prove their faithfulness? Why or why not?
6. Some Christians see parallels between the story of the binding of Isaac and Jesus' sacrifice. Name one similarity you notice.
7. What do you think God means when he says to Abraham, "By your offspring shall all the nations gain blessing for themselves"?

8. In response to Abraham's obedience, God restates God's side of the covenant he has already established with Abraham. How would you have felt about this if you had been Abraham?

9. Compare Genesis 22:17-18 to Genesis 17:2-8. What did God add to the covenant? What does this addition imply?

10. Genesis 22:20-24 may seem like just another list of begats, but it includes the birth of Rebekah who would become a major player in the formation of the Israelite people. If you know of one, give an example of a random bit of information you have received that seemed meaningless at the time but turned out to be critical in hindsight.

Genesis 23

11. Abraham makes a point to *buy* the cave (and field) from Ephron so he can bury Sarah rather than receive it as a gift, the Hittite community witnesses the transaction, and the scripture repeats that the cave/land was the legal property of Abraham an additional two times. Why do you think Abraham's ownership of this land received so much attention (an entire chapter!)?