

**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM & SARAH      Genesis 17:1-19 & 18:14 & 21:1-20****(about 2000 B.C.)**

17:1 When Abraham was 99 years old, God said to Abraham, “I am Most-Powerful-God. 2 I will give you many, many descendants. 4 You will be the father of many nations – 6 and kings will come from you. 7 My promise to you is forever – my promise is to you and your descendants forever. Abraham, I will be your God – and I will be your descendants’ God. 8 Now you are a stranger in Canaan – but I give all of Canaan to you – and I give all of Canaan to your descendants forever. And I will be their God.”

[But Abraham’s wife Sarah could not have children.]

17:19 God said to Abraham, “Your wife Sarah will give you a son – and you must name your son Isaac. [I made a special promise to you: “I will bless all the peoples in the world through you.”\*] I will make the same promise to Isaac.† My promise to Isaac will be forever – and my promise will be to Isaac’s descendants forever.” 18:14 Is anything too hard for God?”

21:1 God was very kind to Sarah – and God did for Sarah what he promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant. And the next year Sarah gave birth to a son for Abraham – the baby was born exactly when God promised. 3 Abraham named his son Isaac. 5 Abraham was 100 years old (and Sarah was 90 years old) when Isaac was born.

9 But Ishmael was mocking Isaac. Ishmael was Abraham and Hagar’s son. 14 So Abraham sent away Hagar his slave wife, and her son, Ishmael. 12 God said to Abraham, “Do not be upset about the boy Ishmael. Do not be upset about sending Ishmael away, because I will count your descendants through Isaac. 20 Ishmael grew up in the desert – and God was with Ishmael.

**CREATOR GOD GIVES ABRAHAM A VERY HARD TEST      Genesis 22:1-19**

22:1 Later, God tested Abraham – and God said, “Abraham!” And Abraham said, “Yes, here I am.” 2 Then God said to Abraham, “You love Isaac – you love your only son Isaac. But take your son Isaac, and go to a mountain in Moriah – and sacrifice Isaac to me on the mountain (on Mt. Moriah).”

3 Abraham got up early the next morning – and he cut wood for the sacrifice. Then Abraham took two servants and his son Isaac. He got on his donkey and they started going to the mountain.

4 On the third day Abraham saw the mountain – the mountain was still far away. 5 Then Abraham said to the servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go to the mountain. We will worship God. Then we will come back to you.”

6 Abraham put the wood on Isaac – and Isaac carried the wood. And Abraham carried the fire and the knife. And they started walking to the mountain. 7 But Isaac said, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” answered Abraham. Then Isaac asked, “We have the fire, and we have the knife. But where is the lamb? Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” 8 Abraham answered, “My son, God provides the lamb for himself – God provides the lamb for the sacrifice.” Then Abraham and Isaac walked to the mountain together.

9Abraham and Isaac came to the mountain. And Abraham made an altar – and he put the wood on the altar. Then Abraham tied his son Isaac, and he laid Isaac on the altar. 10And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son.

11But the Angel of God called to Abraham from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes, here I am,” Abraham answered. 12The Angel of God said, “Do not touch the boy. Do nothing to the boy.”

The Angel of God said, “Now I know that you respect God. Isaac is your only son – but you were going to give Isaac to me.”

13Then Abraham looked behind him. There was a bush behind him – and in the bush was a sheep. The sheep’s horns were caught in the bush. So Abraham went to the bush – and he took the sheep. And Abraham sacrificed the sheep instead of his son.

14So Abraham named that place: God Will Provide. So today we say: “On God’s mountain, God will provide.”

15The Angel of God called to Abraham from heaven again, 16“I swear by myself. Because you “gave” me your son, your only son – 17I will bless you. I will make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. 18And through your descendant all nations on earth will be blessed. I will do this because you obeyed me.”

19Then Abraham (and Isaac) went back to the two servants. And they all went home together.

\* Genesis 12:3

† Genesis 26:2, 4 2*God said to Isaac, 4“I will bless all nations on earth through your descendant [Jesus Christ].”*

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- After Isaac was born, what did Ishmael do? (Genesis 21:9)
  - So what did Abraham do? (verse 14)

- How did God test Abraham's faith? (Genesis 22:2)
  - How did Abraham feel about Isaac? (verse 2)

If Isaac died, could God bless all peoples in the world through Isaac (in 17:19)?  
Could God keep his promise to Isaac?

- How long did Abraham wait to obey God? (verse 3)
- What did Abraham say to the servants – what did he tell them he and Isaac would do? (verse 5)

Why do you think Abraham said: "We will come back to you?"

- What 3 things did Abraham and Isaac carry to the mountain? (verse 6)
- What did they not carry to the mountain? (verse 7)
  - So what did Isaac ask his father? (verse 7)
- What did Abraham answer? (verse 8)
- What did Abraham do to his son Isaac on the mountain? (verse 9)
- Next, what did Abraham plan to do to Isaac? (verse 10)

Which was the most important to Abraham: God or his son?

How much faith in God did Abraham have?

**#1. 11Abraham was too old to have children – and his wife Sarah could never have children. But Abraham believed God – he had faith in God. So Abraham was able to become a father because Abraham thought: I know that God always keeps his promises. 12So – even though Abraham's body was the same as dead – Abraham's descendants became as many as the stars in the sky.**

Hebrews 11:11-12 [This was written about 2000 years after Abraham]

**#2. 17-18 God tested Abraham, and Abraham believed God – he had faith in God. So Abraham gave Isaac to God – he sacrificed Isaac to God. God had promised Abraham, "I will count your descendants through Isaac." Yet, Abraham was going to give his only son to God – he was going to kill his only son. 19Why? Because Abraham thought: God can make dead people alive again – God can make Isaac alive again. Symbolically, that is what happened for Abraham – symbolically, Isaac died and became alive again.**

Hebrews 11:17-19 [This was written about 2000 years after Abraham]

What did Abraham believe that God could do?

- What did the Angel of God (probably God himself) tell Abraham not to do? (verse 12)

Did God really want Abraham to kill his son?  
Or was God just testing Abraham's heart?

Later, God said to Israel:

***When you go into Canaan, do not copy the terrible things those nations do. Do not sacrifice your sons and daughters in the fire.***

Deuteronomy 18:9-10

- Why did the Angel of God test Abraham? (verse 12 – the second half)

What did God want most from Abraham? What was most important to God?

Abraham loved his son Isaac. But who was #1 for Abraham?

Of course, Jesus Christ wants us to love our families.  
But he said:

***37“Do you love your father or mother more than you love me? Yes? Then you do not fit me. Do you love your son or daughter more than you love me? Yes? Then you do not fit me. 38Do you want to follow me? Yes? Then you must suffer for me. 39Are you trying to find your life? Yes? Then you will lose your life. But if you let go of your life for me, you will find your life!”***

Matthew 10:37-39

What does God want to know about us?

- What did God provide for Abraham and Isaac? (verse 13)