

Abraham offers up Isaac

Hebrews 11:17-19

The stories in the Old Testament have always been fascinating to me. They give us a picture of what life was like in Bible times. One such story is that of God telling Abraham to sacrifice his son. The full account of this story is found in Genesis 22, and is one of my favorites. God had appeared to Abraham at night and given instructions on what had to be done. Abraham was instructed to head out the next morning on a three day journey to Mt. Moriah where he would sacrifice his son Isaac and then burn him as a sacrifice unto the Lord.

The exciting part of this story is God had told Abraham and Sarah they were going to have a child, and that he would be the heir of God's promised seed. If you remember, Sarah was 90 years old when she had Isaac. Before she conceived she had persuaded Abraham to go in to her hand-maiden to have a child, which was a terrible mistake. Abraham and Hagar had the child (Ishmael), but that was never God's plan.

In Genesis 22 God told Abraham "Take now thy son, thine only son." Why would God even say this? This represents a beautiful picture of God's forgiveness. When God



JUST A THOUGHT
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forgives, He forgets. Abraham was a man that had faced many tests in his life. He had been tried all through his life's journey. His father had died, he had packed up and left his home, left his brother, Nahor, and much of his family along with all the comforts of home. Now God is putting him to the ultimate test. Why would God even do this? Now, as a side bar to this story, I have thought of my own life. I don't believe I could do what Abraham did. This decision would be especially hard because it seems to be a direct contradiction to what God had already told him. God had made the promise that Abraham's son would be the seed of a great nation

(Israel). Would God go back on His promise?

As this story unfolds, we can definitely see the obedience of Abraham. Scripture tells us that he rose early in the morning, gathered all that he would need for the journey and sacrifice, and then he headed out. He never sought help from anyone else or even consulted with Sarah. He simply acted in obedience to the directions he had received. Let's see three thoughts that represent Abraham's obedience:

1. What Abraham did was prompt. God spoke to him and there was no reason for hesitation, so he acted promptly. He never said anything to Sarah or Isaac. His obedience was as spontaneous as the command was startling. When God speaks, what can we do? OBEY! I Samuel 15:22 tells us that our obedience is more important than our sacrifice.

2. What Abraham did was persistent. Abraham had the Sustaining Force (God) on his side. We should always know where God leads, He provides. When God calls us, He also equips us. Whom God calls, He strengthens (energizes). Abraham was able to maintain his purpose.

3. What Abraham did was perfect. When Abraham lifted up the knife, the sacrifice was com-

plete. God stopped him because He knew Abraham's heart. Isaac had already been sacrificed upon the altar of the father's heart, and God knew it.

What a story! We could share many more thoughts from this story, but I will leave it to you to fill in the blanks.

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Crossword and Sudoku answers, page 14

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10							
11				12							13						
14								15				16	17				
	18								19							20	
				21		22					23						
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49				50	51				52		53	54	55				
	56					57		58								59	
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												63					

CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular musical awards show

5. Speech in one's honor

11. A state of poor nutrition

14. Not ingested

15. More lacking in taste

18. "Popeye" cartoonist

19. Helps to reduce speed

21. January 1 greeting (abbr.)

23. Georgian currency

24. Proverb expressing a truth

28. Jewish calendar month

29. Volume measurement

30. Fair-skinned

32. Patti Hearst's captors

33. Have already done
35. Touch lightly

36. Autonomic nervous system

39. Plant part

41. College degree

42. Military alliance

44. Tokyo's former name

46. Carpenter's tool

47. Before

49. Consent to receive

52. Passages

56. The Duke of Edinburgh

58. Utter repeatedly

60. Linked together in a chain

62. Quality that evokes pity

63. Maintained possession of

CLUES DOWN

1. U.S. military school

2. Controls

3. Away from wind

4. Grab quickly

5. Being everlasting

6. Vase

7. Atomic #3

8. Type of medication

9. Encircle with a belt

10. Belonging to you

12. American state

13. City in Zambia

16. Good Gosh!

17. Of the country

20. Helsinki district

22. 36 inches

25. Reporters' group

26. The voice of Olaf

27. Explains in detail
29. Tooth caregiver

31. One point south of due east

34. Scottish river

36. Elsa's sister

37. Civil Rights group

38. Line of poetry

40. Doctor

43. Fatty acid

45. Avatar (abbr.)

48. Awe-inspiring garden

50. Fall down

51. Rock icon Turner

53. Asian country (alt. sp.)

54. UK museum network

55. Stairs have at least one

57. Part of (abbr.)

58. Simpson trial judge

59. Sun up in New York

61. Exclamation of surprise

SUDOKU

		4	8	9	6	1		
							9	
		1				5		4
	5			1		6		
			3		5		7	
			7					9
	4	8					6	
3	9	2			1			8

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!