

Timeline of Truth – God Tests Abraham (Gen 22:1-24)

<p>¹ Now it came to pass after these things</p>	<p>1. God's <u>Timing</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>After These Things:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac's Birth (21:1-7) • Isaac's Weaning (21:8-13) • Sending Away of Hagar & Ishmael (21:14-19) • Growing (& Marriage?) of Ishmael (21:20-21) • Abraham's Covenant with Abimelech (21:22-33) • Abraham's Dwelling for Many Days in Philistia (21:34) • Ages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Abraham: 105+ b. Sarah: 95+ c. Isaac: 5+ d. Ishmael: 19+
<p>that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!"</p>	<p>2. God <u>Calls Out</u> to Abraham</p>
<p>And he said, "Here I am."</p>	<p>3. Abraham Responds to God</p>
<p>² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."</p> <p>Jewish tradition has it that the site of this event is the same site as the temple. It could be the same mount or one in the general vicinity.</p> <p>2 Chron 3:1 Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (2 Sam 24:10-25; 1 Chron 21:8-30)</p>	<p>4. God <u>Commands</u> Abraham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Person</u> (only son – political heir) • The <u>Place</u> (3 days' journey...) • The <u>Purpose</u> • No <u>Reason</u> Given...
<p>³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.</p>	<p>5. Abraham <u>Obeys</u> God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abraham was <u>Prompt</u> (cp. 21:14; 19:27; 20:8) • Abraham was <u>Prepared</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Abraham brought <i>assistants</i> b. Abraham brought <i>wood</i> c. Abraham brought <i>fire</i> (6) d. Abraham brought a <i>knife</i> (6) e. Abraham did NOT bring <i>substitute sacrifices</i>
<p>⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.</p>	<p>6. Abraham <u>Nears</u> Moriah</p>
<p>⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."</p> <p>⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.</p> <p>"For a long time" in 21:34 probably is inclusive of chaps. 20–21, but 22:1 indicates enough time has elapsed for Isaac to have grown from a toddler (ca. two to three years old) in 21:8 to an adolescent in chap. 22. Isaac is old enough to endure a climb bearing wood (v. 6) but is still considered a "boy" (<i>na'ar</i>, vv. 5, 12). (K.A. Mathews, Vol. 1B: Genesis 11:27-50:26. The New American Commentary, p. 289, Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005.)</p>	<p>7. Abraham & Isaac Go on <u>Alone</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lad = compare with Ishmael (21:12)
<p>⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"</p>	<p>8. Isaac's <u>Question</u></p>
<p>⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.</p>	<p>9. Abraham's <u>Answer</u></p>

<p>⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.</p> <p>¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. So this remark confirms that impression given by vv 7-8 that Isaac was an unblemished subject for sacrifice who was ready to obey his father, whatever the cost, just as his father had showed his willingness to obey God to the uttermost. (Wenham, G.J. 1998. <i>Vol. 2: Genesis 16-50</i>. Word Biblical Commentary, p. 109. Dallas: Word, Incorporated.)</p>	<p>10. Abraham Follows Through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built an altar • Placed the wood in order • Bound Isaac (Indicates Isaac's consent?) • Laid him on the altar • Stretched out his hand • Took the knife to slay his son (no intercession...)
<p>¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."</p>	<p>11. God Halts Abraham</p>
<p>¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him;</p>	<p>12. God Issues a New Command</p>
<p>for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only <i>son</i>, from Me."</p>	<p>13. God Shares His Reason</p>
<p>¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind <i>him was</i> a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.</p>	<p>14. God Provides a Sacrifice</p>
<p>¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said <i>to</i> this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."</p>	<p>15. Abraham Names the Place</p>
<p>¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, <u>because you have done this thing</u>, and have not withheld your son, your only <i>son</i>-- ¹⁷ "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which <i>is</i> on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, <u>because you have obeyed My voice.</u>"</p>	<p>16. God Blesses Abraham Further</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Speaks Again (15) • God's Reason (16) • God's Blessing (17-18a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Blessing I will bless you b. Multiplying I will multiply you... c. Descendants shall possess enemies' gates d. All nations of the earth shall be blessed • God Restates His Reason (18b)
<p>¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.</p>	<p>17. Abraham Returns to Beersheba</p>
<p>NOT COVERED (20-24): Descendants of Nahor, Abraham's Brother</p>	

Heb 6:13-18 ¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

Heb 11:17-19 ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," ¹⁹ concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

James 2:20-24 ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

LESSONS:

1. God requires first place, before anyone or anything.
2. God may not be fully understood (why...), but He can be wholly trusted.