

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 22-23

OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 22, God tests Abraham's faith by commanding him to offer his only son, the promised son, Isaac, as a burnt offering. Abraham sets out to obey and takes it as far as drawing the knife back to kill his son. It is only when the Lord cries out to him, does Abraham stop. For such obedience, God emphasizes the blessing on him and his offspring. The chapter ends with a genealogy of Abraham's other family, introducing us to Rebekah, Isaac's future wife.

Genesis chapter 23 jumps forward a couple of decades to the death of Sarah at 127 years old. Abraham mourns for her and then purchases a cave near Mamre as a permanent family burial place in the land of Canaan.

DISCUSSION

- When God called Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, Abraham did so, seemingly without hesitation. Why do you think Abraham was able to do that (**Genesis 22:1-8**)?
- In what ways were Abraham's actions prophetic?
- The binding of Isaac (the Akeida) is a chiasm between verses 6 and 9. What is the center of this chiasm and what important point is it emphasizing?
- God told Abraham that he was to sacrifice his son on the top of Mt. Moriah. What other significant things have and will take place in that very spot?
- What is the application for the Moriah moment?
- What "firsts" was mentioned in Genesis chapter 23?
- Why do you think Abraham was willing to pay full price for Sarah's burial cave (**Genesis 23:12-16**)?

