

Genesis 21 conclusion: King Abimelech (a Philistine King) had taken Sarah assuming she was Abraham's sister. After all that is what Abraham said. We saw how a Godly man, Abraham, lied and misled an ungodly but semi-righteous man, Abimelech. All because Abraham was somewhere that he was not supposed to be. So God once again dealt with the mess that Abraham and Sarah got in to but did so based on reading the hearts of all involved. Abimelech did what was morally lawful for a King to do and Abraham and Sarah messed up because of their doing things without consulting God first. Basically out of ignorance. In every such situation, God will lead the ignorant out of the situation. God will deal with all according to the intentions of the heart. He will clean up the mess but let you know how stupid it was of you to have gotten in the situation to begin with. We saw that two weeks ago with Hagar and Ishmael. Hagar was caught up in the plot of giving Abraham a son. She was an Egyptian but must have had some schooling on the God of Abraham because God read her heart too when she and the boy had been cast out. Hagar and Ishmael were blessed of God even though future generations would become enemies of God's people.

No one will stand before God and be able to say He was not just or fair! But multitudes will be able to see how God loved them while they were still sinners. If all depends on ones heart. If your heart naturally cares for others and honestly seeks to know the truth of God, the truth of Jesus Christ, then you will one day be Lydratized. But if one lives their life with a what's in it for me attitude or you only live once attitude then being Lydratized is probably not happening. That is what is so dangerous about being religious on the outside and empty, or petty on the inside. This is why Pharaoh was so desimated. →

Yes, he let the Egyptians go, in the Book of Exodus, but only (55) because God made him. And all the households of the Egyptians

gave their jewelry, fine linens, cattle, oxen, carts and supplies to the fleeing Israelites also because God made them. None were rewarded, all were lost.

Moral of the story (or in this case Chapter 21 of Genesis): Don't play around with God by thinking that outward charity and forced good deeds matter to God. They don't. He actually is insulted by them.

Genesis 22:1: God's absolutely favorite three words: "Here I am".

Genesis 22:2: This verse is crucially important to memorize for many many reasons. One is that Isaac was the only son that God acknowledged. Another is that Isaac as the only son would mean that the Messiah only stems from the lineage down from Isaac. All other messiahs/prophets/heirs/or lineages from any

other person are fake gods or demonic. Another important thing is that God is asking Abraham to do what is seemingly impossible. After all God said that from Isaac He would make a great nation and yet now He is asking Abraham to end that possibility. Another important fact is that nothing on earth was more important to Abraham than Isaac (besides of course God).

Another crucial fact is that Isaac was to be sacrificed on a mountain that God would show Abraham. (Later we will see that Moriah where Abraham was to offer up Isaac is the same place that is called Golgatha where God's One and only Son would be sacrificed 2,000 years later. Another point is the absolute severity of the request: "Do you truly trust Me". "Do you love Me more than ... (fill in the blank)."

If you think about it God is asking us the same thing. He is saying I offered up My One and Only Son so that you could live. Do you love Me enough to choose Me over everything?

Genesis 22:3-5 Abraham and Isaac are fully on (56) board with what's about to happen. Abraham loads up all the supplies and heads to the place where he is to offer up Isaac. He is 115 years old, Isaac about 15 years old. Verse 4 says it was a three day journey. Three days of dead man walking. All of Abraham's greatest fears are mere days away. Isaac must also have a sense of what is going on. At the base of Mt. Moriah Abraham says, "Stay here with the donkey, the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

This is Faith. Knowing that there is no possibility that any good can come about in what's going to happen but also knowing that there will! This is being Stephanatized when all is lost. This is believing that if he were to take Isaac's life that God would resurrect him again even though no one had ever come back from the dead before. Being Stephanatized also comes with a peace that surpasses all understanding. A clarity that can not be explained. A conviction that God will bend all of the laws of the universe just for you, just because you believe on Him. (see printout)

Genesis 22:6-8 When one is Stephanatized the impossible can be spoken as if it were self explanatory. We just read that with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendigno who told King Nebuchadnezzar when they said, "If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, ...". Here too Abraham is declaring (something that God did not physically tell him) that God Himself will provide the offering.

Genesis 22:9-10 Little is said about Isaac's faith but it is amazing. Isaac trusted his father to the point of death. He laid there not seeing the offering that his father said God would provide. Not only that but now his father is raising the knife in order to

plunge it in to him and he does nothing but be obedient. (57)
Why? Because his father told him it would be all right! The

same obedience that Jesus would have 2,000 years later when God would tell Him, "It'll be all right, I will see You again."

Genesis 22:11-12 Yes, God sure did seemingly test Abraham passed what is doable, but did He really? Don't forget the same God who asked Abraham and Isaac to do this is the same One who Stephanatized them to carry it out, The same One who kept their legs marching toward Moriah, the same One who blocked out Satan's voice the whole way, and the same One who gave them both a peace that surpasses all understanding that guarded their heart and mind.

All that Abraham and Isaac did was take the first step. That crucially important first step. Then God equipped them for every other step right to the very last step. Abraham, Isaac, Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abendigno as well as you and I can rest assured that if God asks us to do something all we have to do is walk forward in faith and our Lord will do the rest through us. Almost as if we were on auto-pilot. And the outcome will always be spectacular and often miraculous.

Genesis 22:13-14 Moses who transcribed Abraham's testimony, with absolute guidance of the Holy Spirit says that the place was called The-LORD-Will-Provide (Jehova Jireh) and then he mentions, "as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.' Literally provided 2,000 years later."

Genesis 22:15-19 Oh how beautiful God is. Here He blesses any and everyone who stems from Abraham, or Christ, if they so choose. He equipped Abraham to be faithful, then blessed him because he was faithful. This is called faith. For me one example that I cherish is the summer fellowship Sundays outdoors, I have faith, He does the rest, then He blesses us for believing.