James #59

God tests us, Satan tempts us.

Open back up in our anchor study of James chapter one RF.

We will read through a few verses and get us re-focused on this epistle.

Jam 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

Within this one scripture we noted the areas of temptation and pressure comes from the OSN, the world and the devil.

We noted the fact that steadfast endurance is needed during our temporal walk on earth.

Also, we looked at the end result of winners and losers in the doctrine of crowns.

Now notice how this verse ends…

/Jam 1:12 - *the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes **all things to work together** for good **to those who love God,** to those who are **called according to *His* purpose.\**

This is the principle many Christians overlook – which points to a relationship with GOD, intimacy. As well as being in the plan of GOD, the purpose is the will and the plan of GOD for your life.

Notice those two criteria as we move forward in James chapter one.

/[Jas 1:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/13/s_1147013) No one is to say when he is tempted, “**I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil,** and He Himself does not tempt anyone.\

[Jas 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/14/s_1147014) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Lustful thoughts left unchecked and nurtured turn into sin.

[Jas 1:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/15/s_1147015) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.

All sin brings forth some form of death.

[Jas 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/16/s_1147016) Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers *and sisters.*

[Jas 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/17/s_1147017) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

God is not the author of confusion.

[Jas 1:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/18/s_1147018) In the exercise of His will He gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Let me open this new study with a quote from a great pastor-teacher many of you know well.

/ *“Satan tempts: God tries. But the same trial may be both a temptation and a trial; and it may be a trial from God’s side, and a temptation from Satan’s side, just as Job suffered from Satan, and it was a temptation; but he also suffered from God through Satan, and so it was a trial to him.” Charles Spurgeon*\

God sometimes allows great pressure and tests to come to His people. There is a test and set of adversities at every level of growth and in some cases several times we are pressed in certain areas of these tests.

Turn in your bibles into the OT – Genesis chapter twenty-two RF.

Abraham’s spirituality and growth are two important factors in his life. He believed upon Christ even under his father’s authority, who was dedicated to Nimrod’s dynasty.

Abraham’s father Terah was well off and considered a respected elder in this region. So, he came from what we may consider an affluent background…albeit, it was blessing by the devil’s system, but they had wealth.

Abraham became born again through faith in TLJC while living in the Ur of the Chaldees. He left there in obedience and crossed the Euphrates River, which is where we get the term Hebrew from.

His spirituality was the faith-rest technique which took him many years and several failures to finally achieve.

Many of you know the story and the years of stumbling around after salvation. Both he and his wife Sarah took upon themselves to try and start a family outside the plan of God.

In doing so they brought misery and 13 years of silence into their walk with God.

His growth was his persistent understanding, continued worship, study and finally learning about the application of Bible doctrine.

At this historic point, he and his wife Sarah, are back on track with the plan of God and have a young adult son, Isaac. Who GOD miraculously gave them at their advanced age.

In this chapter and portion of his life, Abraham is now both spiritual and mature and therefore ready for the greatest test of his life;

/Gen 22:1 Now it came about after these things, **that God tested Abraham**, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, **“Here I am.”**

The immediate response meant Abraham was ready to obey, ready to surrender, and he was ready to be examined by God.\

The SM Christians is not knocked off balance as challenges confront them. They know GOD may be calling them into a desert situation or even a pressure situation.

The desert situation happens, when we are set in a place of some type of isolation, we are singled out while others either peel away from us or watch us from a distance.

 REPEAT

This next test, will show Abraham that he loved and trusted the LORD more than anything and it would skyrocket him spiritually.

/[Gen 22:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/2/s_22002) Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and **go to the land of Moriah** (*môrîyâ*), **and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains** of which I will tell you.”

Taken to the place created and chosen by JEHOVAH. Eastern side of Palestine, many scholars believe the very same spot which became known as GOLGOTHA.\

MORE-REE-AH, means GOD has chosen or Jehovah has manifested. The place of the skull or Calvary in the Latin, which is where TLJC would be crucified over 1,800 yrs later.

[Gen 22:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/3/s_22003) So Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place of which God had told him.

There is nowhere in scripture that we see Abraham verbally challenge GOD, he immediately begins the preparation. Which is not to say, he did not cry, or pray or have painful doubts.

SM Bels have struggles like anyone else, the difference is - they do not become overwhelmed and emotionally frozen in anxiety or worry.

 REPEAT

[Gen 22:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/4/s_22004) On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

[Gen 22:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/5/s_22005) Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”

Contrary to popular belief, Issac is not a little boy, more likely a young man, possibly in his early twenties.

He uses a Hebrew term - *naʿar,* (NAH-AIR) which can mean a child or a young lad or young man. *The boy*, is a poor translation.

Some historians believe Isaac was over 30 years old at this historic point.

/Isaac is probably a grown man or at least old enough to fight and make his own stand within this scenario. Isaac is the promised seed for Abraham’s future, as well as the spiritual seed for a covenant people who will multiply beyond compare. Abraham is now trusting in GOD’s words, promises and power to resolve this current dilemma.\

[Gen 22:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/6/s_22006) And Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

Both men will operate with very powerful faith rest in this historic event.

Abraham is displaying incredible restraint and faith, while maintaining the doctrinal protocol of prayer and worship.

/[Gen 22:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/7/s_22007) Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, “**My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.”** And he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

This is very similar to the call Abraham got from GOD just days earlier. “*Here I am”*, still operating under faith and trust, that JEHOVAH will provide a miracle or an exit from this difficult task.\

[Gen 22:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/8/s_22008) Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

/Two principles come to light – Isaac is also showing incredible faith through obedience; this was also testing his faith. Notice exactly what Abraham spoke out loud, was probably what he had been praying about for several days. God comes through for the SM Bel, yet does so in HIS timing and HIS unique way.\

Prayers for SM Bels often materialize much quicker because no matter what, even if things do not turn out how they prayed or wanted - they will remain faithful, GOD knows HIS children.

/[Gen 22:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/9/s_22009) Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and **bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood**.

Neither Abraham nor his son Isaac, are hesitating. This is one of the great examples of faith rest that any CA Christian can view.\

This is also teaching us GOD does put the difficult trials upon us, HE does test us. Sometimes God does so under HIS divine will, which this is an example of, and other times under HIS permissive will.

 In fact, after this historic testing – Abraham is never pressed like this again.

/The teaching tool in this typology, like all Divine lessons is so profoundly deep; Jesus Christ within His humanity and His own human volition, agreed to go to the cross and be bound to the that sacrificial altar, just as Isaac had done here. Isaac is seen here as a type of Christ, which was another lesson given to all Believers throughout history.\

[Gen 22:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/10/s_22010) And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

/I can guarantee you, that both Abraham and Isaac were weeping and emotionally struggling with this whole test, yet they did not waiver! God never expects you to be a stone-cold, island onto yourself. It is under great adversity and pressure that diamonds and pearls are made…never forget that.\

[Gen 22:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/11/s_22011) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

/[Gen 22:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/12/s_22012) He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; **for now I know that you fear**(*yārē'*) **God, since you have not withheld your son**, your only son, from Me.”

This means reverence to the point of trembling respect or honor. God waited until the very last moment before HE stepped in – HIS timing is never our timing.\

YAH-RAY has several meanings and one points to the highest regard or respect and it is also used for fear as know it today.

Notice God calls Isaac his only son – meaning this is the one I am looking upon in favor for my people.

These types of scriptures frustrate a certain religious group known as Islam.

[Gen 22:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/13/s_22013) Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him was* a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son.

The ram was often viewed as a powerful animal, especially the horns, which often represented military power.

Our LORD is represented here in the thickets.

/[Gen 22:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gen/22/14/s_22014) And Abraham named that place The **LORD Will Provide**, as it is said to this day, “**On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”**

Jehovah-jireh – the LORD will provide.\

The LORD will provide when we are serious in our relationship with HIM.

/The very substitutionary, spiritual death for the whole world was seen here, pointing us to the future cross in the same location – the LAMB of God, Jesus Christ, would be the sacrifice caught in the thickets (attacked and captured by the devil’s world) and slaughtered for our sins. He could have easily broken free and destroyed all HIS enemies, yet HE willing went to the slaughter.\

/Heb 12:2 looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Phl 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.\

We think of the hard test He gave to Abraham (Gen 22) and the affliction He allowed to come to a positive Believer like Job ([Job 1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/1/1-22/s_437001)).

Other times He may send tests as a form of judgment upon those who have rejected Him, such as sending a spirit to bring deception ([1 Kings 22:19-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1ki/22/19-23/s_313019)) or departing from a man and refusing to answer him ([1Samuel 28:15-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1sa/28/15-16/s_264015)), which we will note next message.

Yet in no case does God ever entice a person into evil.