

22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

22:2 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."

22:3 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.

22:4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

22:5 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."

22:6 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.

22:7 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?"

22:8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

22:9 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.

22:10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

22:11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."

22:12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

22:13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was 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.

22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The Lord it shall be provided."

From today's sermon.

In chapter 17, when he was told of the birth of his son, he laughed, wondering how a child could be born to a 100-year-old man and his 90-year-old wife, who also laughed at the news. His wife also laughed at the news. But, as God had predicted, Isaac was born. God has done

works beyond human understanding in the past and still does today.

And God's message to Isaac was to offer his beloved son as a burnt sacrifice. What a cruel prophecy! God's words were unbelievable. He had given him a son in order to multiply his descendants, and yet his words were a lie. 'God tested Abraham and said to him. Why did God need to test him? Was God trying to get back at him for laughing at his own words?

But here he is, without complaint or question, getting up early the next morning and silently carrying out the command. He arrives at the place of sacrifice, binds his son and places him on the wood, and Isaac obeys.

But God does not allow Isaac to be harmed.

He did not allow any harm to come to Isaac, "I now know that you are a God fearing man, because you have not spared your son, even your only son, for my sake," and a ram in Isaac's place. This is truly the story of God who gave Jesus as a substitutionary sacrifice for us.

Good morning everyone. Last week was a warm week, but this week we seem to be heading back into the cold. Please take care of yourselves during these cold and warm days.

Now, skipping ahead, we are reading through the Book of Genesis.

Last time, from chapter 15, we had these words from the Lord.

Abram, do not be afraid, for I am your shield. Your reward will be great.

This is a powerful declaration of the Lord. The stars of the sky and the grains of sand of the earth, which we cannot even begin to count. The One who created everything, from our feet to the heights of the sky, is watching us, protecting us, acting as our shield, and telling us not to be afraid. He has a plan. Despite the words of blessing, Abram is disappointed that his wealth will only be passed on to the children of his servants, but the Lord promises to give you a son. But the Lord promises you that He will give you a son. But God was pleased to recognize his faith as righteousness and justification, and we are reminded that our faith is based on the high clogs in the discretion of the love of the One who loves us so much.

15:8 He said, "Lord God, how can I know that I will inherit it?

It is the words of our unbelief that immediately come out of our mouths. For this reason, the Lord split in two the various living creatures that had just been alive and walking, and took their lives to make the Lord appear alive to him, and swore to keep His covenant through the sacrifice that He had split in two.

Later, when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am the Lord's servant. And he again responds in this way.

17:16 I will bless her, and by her I will give you a son. I will bless her and make her the mother of the nations. From her shall come forth kings of the peoples.

17:17 Abraham fell down and laughed, and said in his heart, “How can a man be born to a hundred years old? And how can Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?

And it was the same with Sarah his wife.

18:10 One of them said, “Next spring I will surely return to you. Then your wife Sarah will have a son. Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent behind her.

18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were advanced in years, and had become old men, and Sarah had already ceased to be of the moon of a woman.

18:12 So Sarah laughed in her heart and said, “How can I have pleasure when I am wasting away and my husband is also an old man?

18:13 And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, How can I beget a son, when I am an old man?

18:14 Is there anything impossible for the LORD? Next spring, at the appointed time, I will return to you. Then Sarah will have a son.

18:15 And Sarah was afraid, so she canceled it, saying, “I will not laugh. And the Lord said, “No, you have laughed.

People are so stingy with what God does that they assume it is nonsense and laugh at it. This is us human beings. He said, “I believed in the Lord. The Lord accepted it as his righteousness.” But this is the reality of weak and feeble human beings.

And indeed, a son was born to him, just as the Lord had said.

21:1 And the LORD looked upon Sarah, as he had said before, and did unto her as he had said.

21:2 And Sarah conceived, and when it was the time that God had spoken unto Abraham, she bare a son unto him in his old age.

21:3 And Abraham named the child that was born, the boy whom Sarah bore, Isaac.

21:4 And Abraham circumcised Isaac his son on the eighth day, as God had commanded him.

21:5 And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was born.

21:6 And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears will laugh at me.

God is indeed the One who forgives the dark thoughts of those who laugh at His will because of their irreverent unbelief, and gives them the laughter of joy they desire.

And in chapter 22. The Lord tested Abraham and said to him

22:1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "O Abraham! He said, "Here am I."

22:2 And God said, "Take your son, your beloved only son Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain which I will show you.

Abraham must have been astonished. He had given him a child, a son to inherit, rejoiced in him for a time, rejoiced in this growth, adored and nurtured him, and now he was to come here and offer him as a whole burnt sacrifice? This is an utterly incomprehensible, cruel, contradictory, and even malicious prophecy. He was once a logical and stubborn man who replied, "Lord God, how can I know that I will inherit this? How did he react to this word of God that he could never accept here?

22:3 And Abraham arose early in the morning, and set the rack upon his ass, and took with him two young men, and Isaac his son, and broke the burnt offering, and stood up, and went out to the place where God had shown him.

Strangely enough, he did not complain to God in any way. In spite of his total lack of understanding, he did not question God, he did not talk back, and yet he departed early in the morning with Isaac and his offerings. He must have been raised by the training of faith from God.

22:4 On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place far away.

journey to slaughter My Son. It was a journey that lasted three days. How many times did he want to turn back? But he did not turn back. Finally, the place of execution came into view in the distance. What was he thinking?

22:5 Then Abraham said to the young men, "You stay here with the asses. I and the strawman will go over there to worship, and then we will return to you.

Abraham comes to the altar with a determination not to be dissuaded. At the altar, the

offerings must have been so thorough that the servants made Abraham wait on the way to the altar so that he would not stop to put his hands on Isaac.

22:6 And Abraham took the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and took fire and a knife in his hand, and they went together.

This wood will burn up his flesh, his adorable beloved son. Isaac himself carries the wood that will be the fuel for the day of his own consummation. Somehow, it reminds us that the Lord Jesus walked carrying the wood of the cross on the side of His own crucifixion.

The two went together.” This phrase is repeated twice in verses 6 and 8. Two on the way there and one on the way back. These words remind us of the heart of the father, which is very sad. It reminds us of the last time they will walk together.

In Abraham's hand was a knife to slaughter his beloved son and a spark to burn him.

22:7 Eventually Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father! He answered, “Son, here am I.” Isaac said, “Where is the fire and the firewood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

He is a wise child. He could carry the trees on his back, and he was aware of the lack of animals for the slaughter. We must say goodbye here to this grown-up Wada child, who is so wise and lovely.

22:8 Abraham said, “Son, God Himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering.” Thus the two went together.

It is his words that result in the “provision on the mountain of the Lord” later on. The words here must have been spoken as a means to keep Isaac from fearing until that time, but God does indeed “prepare a lamb for a burnt offering” for both of them. The two men's speech, “Father,” and “Son,” poignantly touch the hearts of those of us who read.

22:9 And when they came to the place which God had shown him, Abraham built there an altar, and laid out the tares, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him upon the tares of the altar.

When he finally arrives at the place, he binds him and places him on the wood without saying

anything to Isaac. Isaac also says nothing to his father. He neither rebels nor rejects him. Why is this? Wasn't he afraid? What is happening? Would he be killed and sacrificed to the fire? And yet, he still continued to believe in his father?

22:10 And when Abraham reached out his hand and was about to kill his son with a knife,

22:11 And a messenger of the Lord called to him from heaven, saying, "Abraham, Abraham!" He answered, "Yes, I am here.

22:12 And the messenger said, "Do not lay a hand on the straw, nor do anything to him. Do not lay a hand on the straw, nor do anything to him, for he is your son, your only begotten Son. I now know that you are a God fearing man, because you have not spared your son, even your only son, for my sake.

God sent a messenger, and the messenger called out twice, "O Abraham, O Abraham! Wait, wait," and he must have been in such a hurry to call his name repeatedly or he would have really put his hand on his son.

God said, "I now know that you are the one who fears God, because you have not spared your son, even your only begotten Son, for my sake.

The New Testament book of Hebrews describes Abraham's state of mind at this time as follows

11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered Isaac. That is, he who had received the promise, offered his only begotten son.

11:18 Of this child it had been said, "He who comes from Isaac shall be called your offspring."

11:19 He believed that God had the power to raise a man from the dead. So he was, so to speak, handed Isaac back to life.

22:13 At this time Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw behind him a ram with its horns hanging over a bush. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of the kid.

Horns are often spoken of as a symbol of power. And a ram. That ram is caught by a bush by his horns, and the bush grabs him by his horns, symbolically the source of his power, and he is unable to move. He is made weak; he is seized; he is sacrificed as a substitute. Here is the message of the New Testament. Here is Jesus Christ.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of

God who takes away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53

53:1 Who could believe what we have heard? Whom did the arm of the LORD appear?

53:2 He grew up before the LORD like a young tree, like a root out of the dry soil. He has no form for us to behold, no majesty, no beauty for us to admire.

53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men; he was a man of sorrows, and knew sickness. 53:4 And he was despised like one whose face is covered with abominations. 53:4 And we esteemed him not, neither did we respect him: for he was a man of sorrows, and knew sickness.

53:4 For indeed he bore our infirmities, and was our grief, and we thought, "What is this that he is doing? But we thought that he was smitten, that he was smitten of God, that he was afflicted.

53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, and crushed for our iniquities. 53:5 But he was chastened himself, and gave us peace; and by his wounds we are healed.

53:6 We have all gone our own way, lost as sheep: but the LORD hath not forgotten the iniquity of us all. 53:6 And the LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all.

53:7 He was tormented and afflicted, but he opened not his mouth. 53:7 He was tormented and afflicted, but he did not open his mouth, like a lamb being led to the hovel, or like a sheep keeping silent before the shearers.

53:8 He was taken away by a tyrannical judgment. Who of his generation thought that he had been smitten for the transgression of my people, and had been cut off from the land of the living?

53:9 Though he did no tyranny, and there was no lie in his mouth, yet his grave was with the wicked, and his mound with the evil-doers.

53:10 Moreover it was the LORD's will to crush him, and the LORD was troubled with him. When he makes himself an offering for the devil, he shall see his offspring, and his life shall be prolonged. And the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

53:11 He shall see light through the affliction of his soul, and shall be satisfied. 53:12 For by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, and shall bear their iniquities.

53:12 Therefore I will cause him to share with the great. He will share the prey with the strong. For he has poured out his soul even unto death, and has been numbered with the just. And he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

For I know now that thou fearest God, because thou hast not spared thy son, even thy only begotten Son, for my sake.

No, no, through the incident of Jesus, we have learned that we are the ones who "will not spare

for me even thy son, thy only begotten Son,” and who “will take the ram and offer it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

22:14 So Abraham called the name of the place Adonai Ereh. By this the people still say to this day, “There is provision on the mountain of the Lord.

The literal translation is that the Lord appeared to us there and we saw Him.

We witness such a truth of the Lord's love for us in every nook and cranny of our lives.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the confirmation of facts not yet seen.

11:2 Men of old were commended because of this faith.

11:3 By faith we realize that this world was made by the word of God, and that therefore the things which are seen do not come from things which are manifest.

11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that cometh to God must surely believe that He is, and that He will reward him that seeketh Him.

11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into the land which he was to inherit, obeyed the call, and went out, not knowing where he was going.

11:9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as if he were in another country, and he dwelt in the tabernacle with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise.

11:10 He looked forward to the city, which was built on an unshakable foundation. For it is God who has planned it and built it.

11:11 By faith also Sarah, though she was old, was given power to conceive seed. For she believed that he who made the promise was true.

11:12 Thus out of one man as though he were dead came to be born a multitude of men, as the stars of heaven, and as the uncountable sand of the seashore.

11:13 All these died in faith. They had not yet received the promise, but they hoped and rejoiced to see it, and they themselves declared that they were sojourners and sojourners on the earth.

11:14 By so expressing themselves, they show that they are seeking a homeland.

11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac. That is, he who had received the promise offered up his only begotten son.

11:18 Of this child it had been said, “He who comes from Isaac shall be called your offspring.”

11:19 He believed that God had the power to raise a man from the dead. So he was, as it were, handed Isaac back to life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. God, who works wonders beyond human understanding, you sometimes lead us into incomprehensible troubles, as if to test us, but we know that it is a training of faith for us, a time of grace to be taught your sacrifice and love. Thank you so much. Bless our families and our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.