



THE GREATEST TEST

THE GREATEST TEST PART 1 - THE TEST!

In this series we are going to look at and unpack the greatest test known to humanity and see what we can glean and come into through this divine apostolic encounter between God, Abraham and Isaac.

We will look at Genesis 22:1-19 and unpack each individual verse or group some verses together and see what is concealed for us to enter into through the spirit of revelation.

Genesis 22:1-19 “Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” 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 wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

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. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”



Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the Lord it will be provided."

Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Let's begin with the first verse.

V1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham

Is this a new reality for you and me? The fact that God will test us directly, while at the same time allowing things to happen to us for our testing. In a modern-day Christianity where many are raised with a prosperity gospel, which isn't the Gospel at all, I wonder, how many of us have the capacity within us to say yes and amen to this truth?

The passage below should grab our attention like no other, as this is very much the truth and reality today.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths."

Are you fully aware that God will test us and allows us to be tested, for a number of



different purposes and all these tests are ultimately for our good?

The purposes for God testing us and allowing us to be tested are as follows:

1. For us to be able to demonstrate a life of wisdom through our faith in Jesus.
2. For us to know that we are in the truth that is making us free, because truth is self-evident.
3. To test the quality of the Spirit's work within us.
4. To enable us to see the fruit, the growth and transformation within us.
5. To reveal to us areas in our lives where we are missing the mark so we can turn to Him and come into more life.
6. To expose any lies, wrong thinking, or unbelief that exists in us for the purpose of change and transformation.

The tests are for our good and they are all to be seen through the lens of a gift, that the Father is bestowing on us to help us become all we have been predestined to become and accomplish. There is nothing negative about these tests and the life that sits behind each test is of an eternal substance.

We must be prepared to have any fear that resides in us, be confronted by God through the test, because the freedom we long for in Him, is on the other side of that fear. Fear is only false evidence appearing real, and it is in the receiving of perfect love through faith in Jesus Christ, that sets us free from this false reality appearing real.

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love."

The type of tests which, God will put us in or send our way are:

1. The becoming one test - fellowship or function?
2. The believe test - who do you say I am?
3. The identity test - who do you say you are?
4. The entering His rest test - can you be still and know I am God?



5. The relational test - whom do you love?
6. The missional test - whom do you live for?
7. The will test - whose will are you doing?
8. The learning test - who is your actual teacher?
9. The serving test - whom are you serving?
10. The giving test - do you give and why do you give?
11. The obedience test - doing what I say when I say it?
12. The poor in spirit test - are you actually humble of spirit?
13. The authority test - do you know how to use the sword?
14. The abiding test - is there fruit being produced?
15. The being tempted by the devil test - will we overcome?

Here are 15 tests to measure and examine yourself by and see where you are at. If right now you are hearing anything negative or a sense of pressure or performance, then can I encourage you to ask yourself why this might be the case.

These tests are of Him, and from Him, for us. They are all part of being His disciple and laying hold of everything that He has for us.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognise this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?" "But I trust that you will realise that we ourselves do not fail the test."

We must be prepared to measure our spiritual growth and development. We must be prepared to ask the hard questions of ourselves and be honest with the results, because the eternal life Jesus came to give us is at stake if we don't.

A big question we must ask ourselves is..."Do we have the kind of faith that brings us into the life that the Holy Scriptures prophesy and testify of?"

As disciples we are to be fully trained and fully equipped to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus, becoming like our Master.



Luke 6:40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

If Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil, then so will we. There is no free ride and there is no escaping these tests if you are serious about truly being a fully-fledged follower of Jesus, as opposed to being a crowd surfer, who just comes along for what they can get out of Christ and bails at the first sign of difficulty and testing.

Spirit led followers see the tests that God brings and allows, as gifts and opportunities for growth and transformation. They see these tests as opportunities for God to reveal His glory, power and overall magnificence in any given scenario within and through them. They see them as divine opportunities for the work that God has done within them to be displayed.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did God test Abraham?
2. What was Abraham being tested on?
3. Why does God test us and allow tests to come our way?
4. How do we respond when faced with tests?
5. Would you say you see tests as a positive or negative thing and why?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/i3w6ZpPsEw8>