

Abraham to Isaac to Jacob

Genesis 22-28
February 10, 2011

The Soap Opera that is Genesis

"How odd of God to choose the Jews." (Ogden Nash)

The real hero of the Bible – and of your story – is God.

Abraham's Extraordinary Test

What is the difference between a test (or trial) and a temptation?

A test appeals to God-implanted desires to _____ him.

A temptation appeals to fallen or Satanic-prompted desires to _____.

Is it worth obeying God when doing so seem to cost too much?

Is it safe to trust this God whose behavior cannot be predicted?

Temptations weaken us, while trials make us spiritually stronger.

Father and son's approach to Moriah is one of the most dramatic stories in history.

Was God being cruel? God wasn't trying to crush Abraham, but to save him.

Four things appear in Genesis 22 for the first time in the Bible:

(1) The word _____ (v. 2)

(2) The use of double address: "Abraham, Abraham" (v. 11)

(3) The concept of substitutionary _____ vs. 13-14)

(4) Mt. Moriah, also known as Mt. _____, site of _____

The Search for Isaac's Bride (Gen 24)

Intriguing details

Women do the watering...while the men watch (vs. 19-21)

And this ring goes *where*? (v. 22)

Storytelling that goes on and on and on...

An amazingly *brief* engagement (v. 67)

Guidance from God

- We act according to God's known _____ (vs. 6, 7)
- We trust that God is already at work (v. 7)
- We do all we can (vs. 8, 10, 11)
- We _____ in the midst of the situation (v. 12)
- We look for signs of God at work (vs. 13, 14)
- We _____ in the reality that God is in the details (v. 15)
- We offer praise for God's faithfulness (vs. 26, 27)
- Knowing God's will, we don't hesitate to _____ (vs. 55, 56)

Hairy and Grabber (Gen 25-27)

The story of Jacob is one of the longest and most significant in the Bible.

But first, the Bible briefly sets aside the line of Ishmael (25:12-18).

Esau ("redneck") is portrayed as a rugged man of the country, while Jacob ("striver" or "grabber") is a mama's boy (25:25-28).

Ya'akov (Jacob) means, "he who follows close behind but wants to _____."

Jacob steals from his brother the two greatest gifts of that culture:

The _____ (25:34)
The _____ (27:1-40)

Instead of receiving God's blessings as a gift, Jacob lives a life devoted to grabbing them by any means.

The poisonous relationship between the two boys, and Isaac and Rebekah's game of playing favorites, tragically drives this story.

But there is no question that God is at work behind it all!