

The Son of Promise

Genesis 22*

This is at once one of the most dramatic and most theologically significant episodes in Genesis. The cruel command to sacrifice Isaac, the pathos of the solitary ascent by Abraham and his son to the place of sacrifice, the painful process of binding him and laying him on the altar and the last-minute intervention from heaven makes this one of the best-told stories in world literature. But it is more than that.

It also reveals remarkable faith on the part of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac and points to the future sacrifice of God's only Son, Jesus.

The greatest test (1-2)

The obedient response (3-8)

God's intervention (9-14)

God confirms His promise (15-19)

Fear Not!

In the Christmas narratives, there are several "fear nots"

- ❖ The "fear not" of salvation: *"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings...which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10, 11).
- ❖ The "fear not" of the humanly impossible: *"Fear not, Mary, ... the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: ...For with God nothing shall be impossible"* (Luke 1:30, 35, 37).
- ❖ The "fear not" of unanswered prayer: *"Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John"* (Luke 1:13).
- ❖ The "fear not" of immediate obedience: *"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife. ... Then Joseph ... did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him"* (Matthew 1:20, 24 NPS)



*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.