

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #52

### Genesis 22:15-24

When you are faith tested by God and you pass the test, there will be great remuneration. You go to a whole new level in your relationship with God. Abraham had been put to the ultimate test which was designed to determine if Abraham loved Isaac more than God or God more than Isaac. Abraham was proved faithful and now it was time for the awards ceremony.

**WHEN BELIEVERS OBEY GOD BY MAKING GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICES OUT OF A REVERENCE AND LOVE FOR GOD, GOD WILL GREATLY REWARD THAT FAITHFUL BELIEVER BOTH TEMPORARILY AND ETERNALLY.**

Every believer may be absolutely certain that faithfulness to God does not go unnoticed and will not go unrewarded.

**REWARD TRUTH #1** - God the Son, Himself, is the source of the reward. Gen.22:15-16

This is the second time in the narrative context in which “the angel of the LORD” has called out to Abraham and He obviously is God because the sacrifice was made to Him (22:12) and now He swears by Himself. The first time He called out to Abraham was to inform not to touch his son because the test was over (22:11-12) and this second time it is to inform him that he will be greatly rewarded because he was willing to touch his son.

As we have previously discussed, this “angel of the LORD” is none other than a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. This was the second member of the Trinity, who, according to John, had a definite link with Abraham (John 8:56-58).

The fact that He, Himself, swore to reward Abraham, indicates that this Son of God viewed this willingness to offer his only son in a very special and very personal way. This would be the family line through which He would come and the fact that this father was willing to sacrifice his own son was very important to Him.

The Hebrew word “swear” (22:16) is one that refers to a very sacred Divine oath and promise. **Rewarding Abraham was something the Son of God Personally promised He would do, by Himself.** The reason He swore by Himself is because God cannot appeal to any greater than Himself and this particularly was a reward of the Son of God.

**REWARD TRUTH #2** - God the Son, Himself, reveals the specifics of the reward.  
Genesis 22: 17-18

**Specific Reward #1** - The reward of numerical prosperity. 22:17a

The promise is that Abraham’s seed will be multiplied as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore, neither of which may be calculated to this day because the number is so vast. Now this specific type of promise is not new to Abraham (12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 17:6).

**What is new is that the number will become incalculable by the Personal oversight of the Son of God.** At the point this promise is given, Abraham is an old man with only one seed of

promise son - Isaac. Jesus Christ has taken Personal charge of this blessing and no one can possibly number the physical or spiritual seed of Abraham. This is true for Israel and the Church. This becomes very practical for us because our individual salvation has specifically been wrought by Jesus Christ, Himself, as part of this Abrahamic reward (John 10:27-29).

**Specific Reward #2** - The reward of national prosperity. 22:17b

The promise to Abraham is that his seed would “possess the gate of their enemies.” The word “possess” refers to taking possession of something by forcefully expelling, driving out and occupying the area (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 370). This is a promise that Abraham’s seed will one day literally take charge of the cities of the world and will eventually become “the” central governmental power and the Son of God will personally see to it that this will happen. Notice the noun “enemies” is plural - Israel (Abraham’s seed) has many enemies, but one day she will control the very places those enemies live. We learn from a text like Numbers 24:17-19 that it will be Jesus Christ , Himself, who will personally give this land and these cities to Abraham’s seed.

**Specific Reward #3** - The reward of international prosperity. 22:18

Three times in verses 17-18 the noun “seed,” singular not plural, is used which is a direct reference to Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). **Jesus Christ is promising Abraham that He, Himself, will come through his family line (Matthew 1:1).**

This is the first use in the Bible of the word “obey,” as Dr. Morris said “obedience to God results in rich blessings” (*The Genesis Record*, p. 383). Every time any person anywhere is blessed by God - whether it be salvation or some reward, it is somehow connected to Abraham as part of a reward for his remarkable faithfulness and obedience.

**REWARD TRUTH #3** - God the Son, Himself, starts the reward. 22:19-24

Abraham went back to Beersheba, where he lived, and immediately received word of his relative’s physical prosperity . This lineage sets the stage for Rebekah, Isaac’s future wife (22:23).

This report of family prosperity may have seemed insignificant at the time it happened because Abraham had just returned from a powerful experience with God. But behind this news was the Sovereignty of God blessing Abraham, for it would be this very report that would lead Abraham to Isaac’s wife (Genesis 24:4).

When a believer chooses to obey God and is willing to make personal sacrifices for God, he is headed to great blessing - both temporal and eternal. The fact is, any spiritual blessing anyone ever receives comes from some connection to Abraham.

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