

# The Great Test of Faith

**TEXT: Gen. 15:1-6; 22:2; Heb. 1:17-18**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. A DRAMATIC AND TOUCHING STORY - INSPIRING.
- B. INVOLVES A GREAT TEST OF FAITH.
- C. WE CAN LEARN.

## **I. DEFINITIONS:**

- A. **TEST**: "a measure of trial; specifically, subjection to conditions that **show the real character** of a person or thing in a certain particular."
- B. **FAITH**: "confidence and **conviction** based on dependable and reliable testimony."
- C. **TESTS OF FAITH**: "devices of deity by which man's devotion to God is gauged and determined."
- D. **MORAL COMMANDS**: "that which is **right in itself**; matters which commend themselves to all good people as right in the nature of things.
- E. **POSITIVE COMMANDS**: "signifies a type of command that is peremptory, **arbitrary** and absolute originating in the will of God and **right because of the authority which promulgates it.**"
  - 1. Commands in which we are unable to see any connection between that which is required and the blessing which is dependent thereon, i.e. Naaman.
  - 2. Commands not only apparently unrelated to the blessing promised but are of such a nature that the duties imposed are contrary to the natural feelings, distasteful and obnoxious, i.e. Jonah.
  - 3. Commands in which that which God requires is not only wholly unrelated to the blessing promised; commands that involve participation in matters that are to some degree objectionable and distasteful; but also commands that necessitate the doing of things which, but for the fact that God commanded them would be positively wrong, i.e. Abraham.

## **II. IN ORDER TO KEEP HIS PROMISE OF Gen. 12:1-3**

### **IT WAS NECESSARY:**

- A. TO GIVE ABRAHAM **NUMEROUS POSTERITY**( **Gen. 15:6** ).
- B. TO KEEP THEM **SEPARATE FROM OTHER PEOPLE**( **Eph. 2:11-12** ).
- C. TO GIVE THEM A **LAND** IN WHICH TO DEVELOP( **Gen. 15:8** ).
- D. FOR THEM TO HAVE A **LAW** - MOSES( **Ex. 19:5-6; 24:6-8** ).
- E. **MOST IMPORTANT** - NECESSARY TO HAVE A **SON!**( **Gen. 15:4-6; 21:12** ).

## **III. ABRAHAM'S FAITH IS TESTED( Gen. 22:1-2 ).**

- A. ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD - **FAITH PERFECTED IN ITS EXPRESSION OF WORKS**( **James 2:20-23** ).
- B. OBEDIENCE WAS **PROMPT**( **Gen. 22:3; Psa. 119:60** ). NO DOUBT.
- C. THE EXTENT OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH( **Gen. 22:4-5** ).
  - 1. By faith Abraham offered Isaac( **Heb. 11:17-19** ).
    - a. His **only begotten** son( **vs. 17** ). Compare **John 3:16**.
    - b. **The one of promise**( **Gen. 22:15-16; 21:12** ).
    - c. Abraham believed God could raise Isaac( **Heb. 11:19** ).
  - 2. By faith Abraham **did** what God told him to do.
    - a. Faith comes by hearing( **Rom. 10:17** ).
    - b. **Faith alone cannot stand**( **James 2:20-24** ).
    - c. Even though command and promise seem incompatible.

## **CONCLUSION: HOW DOES YOUR FAITH MEASURE?**