



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 18:1-22:24
- Matthew 19:23-30
- Habakkuk 2:1-4
- *See others in teaching

A PROPHETIC BAILIWICK

- No Prophets No Church
- Put on Your Prophetic Glasses
- Your Only Begotten Son
- A Test of Faith for All Times

I'm not certain you'll find a portion of Scripture that has more prophetic big ticket items than Genesis 18 to 22. We could certainly grab any one of them and teach an entire sermon on it. Let's see: nothing is impossible with God; all things happen in their appointed times; God does not hide what He will do from His prophets; who are you to judge me; don't look back, forget the past; God always shows us what He will do in the future; God provides where He guides; faith is a combination of hearing and doing; what happens when you don't withhold your only begotten son; what it means to be a living sacrifice; a third day return to life; the worship and faith connection; the ram of God and lamb of God; the significance of descendants as numerous as stars and sands; the singular "seed" of promise; fear not, He already has your spouse picked out!

But, instead of just one, I decided—let’s do them all! Hence “A Prophetic Bailiwick.” In other words, let’s operate in a certain sweet spot, in this case, the prophetic! Besides, you can’t build THE CHURCH without it. Remember, “You are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Y’shua Himself being the chief corner stone.”

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And the LORD said, “**Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham** shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?” Genesis 18:17-18 NKJV

“Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; **for he [Abraham] is a prophet**, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”” Genesis 20:7 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, **Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”** Amos 3:7 NKJV

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, **in whom the whole building, being fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are **being built together** for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion describes how Yahweh appeared to Abraham outside his tent, and then a second time at the end of the narrative, and describes a series of tests of faith, really for both Abraham and Isaac. It concludes with the greatest act of faith one could imagine, the faith to sacrifice ones own son.
2. **The Son of Promise:** The portion begins with Abraham being encountered by Yahweh, seemingly in the form of “three men.” He invites them to a meal which Sarah prepares. As they sit for the meal they inquire of Sarah's whereabouts.
3. Through these “men” Yahweh speaks aloud, even so Sarah can overhear them. Yahweh will return Sarah's body to the condition of childbearing years and she will have a son.

4. Sarah laughed to herself thinking, "I am way too old to have a child!" Of course, God knows she laughed and inquires why of Abraham. (Note: Abraham laughed as well back in Genesis 17:17 when he was told the same...Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old and woman who is ninety?)
5. Then in a powerful declaration for all of us to hold onto, Yahweh declares: *"Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."* Genesis 18:14 NKJV
6. **Abraham's Intercession:** The three men departed toward Sodom and Abraham goes with them. Yahweh does not want to hide what He is about to do to Sodom as He knows Abraham's line represents the seed of promise to bring justice and righteousness to to the whole earth.
7. Great cries are coming to the throne of God about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham knows that Yahweh is about to destroy them.
8. He pleads with Yahweh to spare the cities for the sake of any righteous living in it.
9. Abraham negotiates with God; if there are 50 righteous men found, would you spare it? Yes, says Yahweh! How about 45, 40, 30, 20, 10? Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!

10. However...it is obvious that is not the case! But do remember that Lot, Abraham's nephew, and his family are dwelling in Sodom.
11. Now two angels (messengers of Yahweh) arrive in Sodom as Lot sits at the city gate. Lot invites them to stay with him overnight and they initially decline. But as Lot insists they eventually accept his offer.
12. "...Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate." (Genesis 19:3 NKJV) Lot makes a feast for them and they eat together. I think it is interesting to note that Lot baked **unleavened bread** for the meal as it all needs to be done quickly, as sudden destruction is coming. This seems to be a prophetic foreshadowing of the Exodus.
- a) "*Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread...*" Exodus 12:15
 - b) ..."**Rise, go out from among my people, ...And go...**" Exodus 12:31
 - c) "**...send them out of the land in haste...**" Exodus 12:33-34
 - d) "*And they **baked unleavened cakes ...because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait...***" Exodus 12:39
13. **Then this bizarre and horrifying narrative ensues:** The very type of men, because of whom Yahweh is ready to destroy the city, surround Lot's house and demand he send out the visitors, so they can have homosexual sex with them.

14. Lot pleads with them, telling them that this is the very type of behavior that has caused Yahweh's desire to destroy the city in the first place. *"Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!"*
Genesis 19:7 NKJV
15. Lot then goes outside and offers his two virgin daughters to them instead. This is so horrific, but it must impress upon you two things. One, how completely abominable to Yahweh the alternative is. And two, how desperate Lot is to save the city.
16. You must be thinking, "how on earth could a father offer his own child for such a thing, just to save someone else?"
Prophetic Alert: Where have I heard that before?
17. Instead, the wicked men threaten Lot and accuse him of "judging them!" As they are ready to deal harshly with him, Lot's guests pull him back inside the house and strike all the men outside with blindness.
18. **Judgement Rains Down in Sodom and Gomorrah:** Lot is warned by his two guests (seemingly they are two witnesses like in the book of Revelation 11:1-14) to gather his family who dwell in the city. Lot's also warns his sons-in-law, who instead treat it like a joke, who then seemingly perish in the judgement.
19. The next morning, as Lot lingers, the two "angels" urge Lot to leave in a hurry (like in the exodus) and they grab Lot, his wife

and daughters (and probably unleavened bread) and drag them outside the city.

20. They warn: "...*Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.*" " Genesis 19:17 NKJV

21. Lot asks if they can go to a nearby city, Zoar, as he thinks escaping to the mountains is too dangerous. He is permitted as Yahweh rains down judgment: *"Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground."* Genesis 19:24-25 NKJV

22. And in one horrific moment, Lot's wife makes a grave error and she is turned into a pillar of salt (a standing or stationary pile of dust, mineral salts). *"But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."* Genesis 19:26 NKJV

23. In the end God, remembered His promise to Abraham and saved Lot.

24. **Lot's Decedents:** Lot's stay in Zoar is not long-lived for fear, and he and his daughters leave the city and dwell in a cave.

25. His older daughter reasons that because, now, there are no men to come have children with them (we can presume their husbands perished), they should get their father drunk and lay

with him. They do so two consecutive nights and both of them become pregnant. The son of the first is Moab who becomes the Moabites, and the son of the younger is Ben-Ammi who becomes the Ammonites!

26. Again, like earlier in Abraham's journey while he approached Egypt (Gen. 12:11-19), Abraham resorts to saying that Sarah is his sister, this time to Abimelech king of Gerar. Then, Abimelech has a dream, much like Pharaoh had a revelation about why he was being plagued, that Yahweh was going to kill him because he had taken another man's wife.
27. Fortunately for Abimelech he had not touched her and pleads his innocence to Yahweh as he was indeed told by Abraham that Sarah was his sister. *"Would you slay a righteous nation; I have acted in integrity and innocence."* Genesis 20:4-5.
28. **Yahweh's response is telling, as it teaches us that Yahweh was in control the whole time, just like He was with Pharaoh and Abraham and will be again with Pharaoh and Moses:** *"I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. **For I also withheld you from sinning against Me;** therefore I did not let you touch her. Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."* Genesis 20:6-7 NKJV (**Note:** of course, with

Pharaoh at the time of Moses Yahweh does the opposite. Instead of keeping Pharaoh from sinning He hardens his heart so He can punish him!)

29. Abimelech rises early the next day and restores Sarah to Abraham, but not without stiffly rebuking Abraham. "What did I do to you to deserve this?"
30. Abraham tells him that he was afraid for his life as he thought this land to be a godless place. Besides, Sarah really is his sister. *"But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife."* Genesis 20:12 NKJV
31. Abimelech restores Sarah and blesses Abraham with livestock and servants and offers him to dwell in his land wherever he pleases. He also gives Abraham 1000 pieces of silver to vindicate Sarah.
32. Abraham prays for Abimelech and for his wife and female servants as God had closed their wombs because of Sarah, and their wombs were opened!
33. **The Birth of Isaac:** Sarah gives birth to Isaac when Abraham is 100 years old. And Isaac is circumcised on the eighth day.
34. After Isaac is weaned, Sarah catches Ishmael scoffing, so she tells Abraham; *"Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the*

son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac.”” Genesis 21:10 NKJV (See Galatians 4:21-31)

35. Abraham is not pleased at Sarah’s attitude, but God tells him to honor her request, as it is through Isaac that the seed comes.
36. Hagar leaves with Ishmael with some provisions and goes into the wilderness where she runs out of food and sits down to die, hoping only that she will die before Ishmael. God calls to her and promises that from Ishmael will be a great nation and then opens her eyes to see a nearby well. (*Again a prophetic picture: Supernatural provision of water in the wilderness!*)
37. God was with Ishmael as he grows to be an archer and Hagar takes a wife for him from Egypt.
38. **A Covenant with Abimelech:** Abimelech requests that Abraham make a covenant of honesty with him and his future generations, reminding him of his kindness toward Abraham, which he does.
39. Then Abraham rebukes Abimelech for his servants having seized his well. Abimelech had not heard of the situation, but does make a covenant with Abraham and agrees the well was dug by Abraham.
40. Abraham sets seven female lambs apart as a witness of the agreement. Then Abimelech returns to the land of the Philistines.

41. *“Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.”* Genesis 21:33 NKJV

42. **Abraham and Isaac, a Test of Faith for All Times:** *“Then He said, “Take now your son, **your only son** Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.””* (Genesis 22:2 NKJV) What ensues is the prophetic foreshadowing of the most famous verse in the Bible. *“For God so loved the world that He gave **His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16 NKJV

- a) Abraham rises early the next day to obey.
- b) He takes two men and Isaac and splits the wood for a burnt offering, and then heads off to the place God instructed.
- c) On the third day he sees the place he is going to in the distance.
- d) He tells the men he is with that he is going on ahead with Isaac. He somehow knows this thing he is doing is a sign of worship and that he will be coming back. ... *“Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”* Genesis 22:5 NKJV

- e) It is not just Abraham who demonstrates radical-faith-based-obedience—so too does Isaac, as he willingly goes every step of the way, even unto laying on the sacrificial altar.
- f) God will provide a lamb for a burnt offering Isaac, Abraham believes and declares to his “only” son!
- g) Abraham makes every preparation—in every detail in obedience—right up to the moment of truth when he about to plunge a dagger into Isaac’s heart!
- h) The Lord appears (as an Angel) and stops him—Yahweh now knows the full extent of Abrahams faith, by his ultimate act of obedience, to sacrifice his own son.
- i) God provides a ram to replace Isaac. (*A curious question: Why a ram and not a lamb?*)
- j) This is all demonstrative of the ultimate fulfillment of Yahweh promises to Abraham (See Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 13:14-16; Genesis 15:4-6). *“Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying **I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore;** and your descendants 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.”

Genesis 22:15-18 NKJV (see teaching “[Are You the One?](#)” for more details on the Seed of Promise)

- k) The Portion ends with Abraham being informed about his brother Nahor and his wife Milcah having been blessed with eight sons. One of them Bethuel, who became the father of **Rebekah!** This is obviously significant because this narrative of Abraham’s and Issac’s faith, which affirms Issac as the SEED OF PROMISE, ends with the introduction of the women who would one day be Isaac’s wife! Nahor also had four other sons via Reumah his concubine, for a total of twelve sons.

NO PROPHETS NO CHURCH

1. Put on your prophetic glasses...

A. Nothing is impossible with God

(1) It’s now time I will fulfill my promise!

- (a) **“Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”** Genesis 18:14 NKJV

(2) Does this not sound exactly like what Abraham did?

- (a) “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of

heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, **"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."** Then Peter answered and said to Him, **"See, we have left all and followed You [like Abraham].** Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, **"Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration [the appointed time],** when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall **receive a hundredfold [like Abraham],** and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Matthew 19:23-30 NKJV

- (3) Does this not sound like the promise of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah?
 - (a) "And behold, **you will conceive** in your womb and **bring forth a Son [like Sarah],** and shall call His name

JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "**How can this be [like Sarah], since I do not know a man?**" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **For with God nothing will be impossible. [like Sarah]** " Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." Luke 1:31-38 NKJV

B. All things happen in their appointed times

(1) I will stand my watch because...

(a) "I will stand my watch And **set myself on the rampart,**
And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I
will answer when I am corrected. Then the LORD
answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it

plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. **For the vision is yet for an appointed time;** But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. **Though it tarry, wait for it; Because it will surely come,** It will not tarry. “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith.” [Just like Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness.]**

Habakkuk 2:1-4 NKJV

(2) Mary receives the promise about her Son...

(a) **From the Shepherds:** “Now when they had seen Him, **they made widely known the saying** which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But **Mary kept [preserved, kept safe until..the appointed time]** all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:17-19 NKJV

(b) **What was told to the shepherds?** “Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**” Luke 2:10-11 NKJV

C. God does not hide what He will do from His prophets

(1) Shall I hide from Abraham...

- (a) “And the LORD said, “**Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,**” Genesis 18:17 NKJV
 - (b) **Why hide anything from Abraham...**“since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”
Genesis 18:18 NKJV
- (2) Abimelech, “Abraham is a prophet”
- (a) Abimelech had taken Sarah into his house because Abraham had said she was his sister...
 - (b) “And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; **for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live.** But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”” Genesis 20:6-7
NKJV
- (3) Yahweh does not hide what he is doing from the prophets...
- (a) “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? (7) Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,

Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:6-7 NKJV

D. Foreshadowing of Passover—The coming out of God’s chosen and the destruction of evil

(1) Lot baked unleavened bread to feed his guests, why?

(a) “But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked **unleavened bread**, and they ate.” Genesis 19:3 NKJV

(2) Lot makes a feast for them and they eat together. I think it is interesting to note that Lot baked **unleavened bread** for the meal as it all needs to be done quickly, as sudden destruction is coming. ***“Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”*** (Genesis 19:17) This seems to be a prophetic foreshadowing of the Exodus.

(a) *“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.”* Exodus 12:15 NKJV

(b) *“Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, **“Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the***

children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said.” Exodus 12:31 NKJV

(c) *“And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might **send them out of the land in haste**. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.” Exodus 12:33-34 NKJV*

(d) *“And they **baked unleavened cakes** of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, **because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait**, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.” Exodus 12:39 NKJV*

(e) **A reminder that they had to leave in a hurry:**

*“Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters. And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘ **This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.**’” Exodus 13:7-8 NKJV*

E. Here, take my child, just don't hurt God's messengers!

(1) Hand over God's men!

(a) “And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us **that we may know them carnally.** ” So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, “Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!”
Genesis 19:5-7 NKJV

(2) No, take my pure children instead!

(a) “See now, **I have two daughters** who have **not known a man**; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may **do to them as you wish**; only do nothing to these men, **since this is the reason** they have come under the shadow of my roof.”” Genesis 19:8 NKJV

1. The very type of men, because of whom Yahweh is ready to destroy the city, surround Lot’s house and demand he send out the visitors, so they can have homosexual sex with them.
2. Lot pleads with them, telling them that this is the very type of behavior that has caused Yahweh’s desire to destroy the city. “*Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!*” Genesis 19:7 NKJV
3. Lot then goes outside and offers his two virgin daughters to them instead. This is so horrific, but it must impress upon you two things. One, how

completely abominable to Yahweh the alternative is.
And two, how desperate Lot is to save the city.

4. You must be thinking, “How an earth could a father offer his own child for such a thing, just to save someone else?” Where have I heard this before?

(b) We see this precise thing as Abraham offers up Isaac...

1. “Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound **Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.** And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.” Genesis 22:9-10 NKJV
2. Stop—You have demonstrated the ultimate love of Yahweh—you have not withheld your **ONLY SON!**
3. “But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “**Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.**”” Genesis 22:11-12 NKJV
4. “Was not Abraham our father justified by works **when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by

works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**” And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” James 2:21-24 NKJV

5. **Now hear the echo of Lot’s words!** “*since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof...*” in other words, your wickedness is precisely why I must substitute my child!
 - a) “For God so loved the world that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 NKJV
 - b) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 NKJV
 - c) “And He Himself **is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” I John 2:2 NKJV
6. “There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and

the **criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.** Then Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**” And they divided His garments and cast lots.” Luke 23:32-34 NKJV

F. Who are you to judge me?

(1) Pagans speaking about God’s chosen: “He keeps acting as a judge”

(a) “And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay here, **and he keeps acting as a judge;** now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.” Genesis 19:9 NKJV

(2) Well guess what?

(a) “Rise up, O Judge of the earth; Render punishment to the proud. LORD, **how long** will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph? They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. They break in pieces Your people, O LORD, And afflict Your heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless... Psalms 94:2-6 NKJV

(b) For the LORD will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance. **But judgment will return to**

righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it." Psalms 94:14-15 NKJV

- (c) **"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you**, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?" I Corinthians 6:2-3 NKJV

G. Don't look back, forget the past

(1) Escape for your life! Do not look behind...

- (a) "So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, **"Escape for your life! Do not look behind** you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." Genesis 19:17 NKJV

(2) Forget the Past!

- (a) "For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; **As far as the east is from the west**, So far has He removed our transgressions from us." Psalms 103:11-12 NKJV
- (b) "...but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead**, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as

many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ..." Philippians 3:12-16 NKJV

- (c) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; **old things have passed away**; behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
- (d) "For he who lacks these things [**the belief and practices that lead you to Christ-likeness**] is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." II Peter 1:9 NKJV
- (e) "And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**" Luke 9:61-62 NKJV

(3) Lot's wife simply could not forget the past, so she looked back!

- (a) "But his wife **looked back** behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Genesis 19:26 NKJV

H. God leaves us an example in the earth for our future admonition!

(1) The Example

- (a) “Then the LORD **rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah**, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.”
Genesis 19:24-25 NKJV
 - (b) “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:” I Peter 2:21 NKJV
 - (c) “and **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes**, condemned them to destruction, **making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;**”
II Peter 2:6 NKJV
- (2) Peter’s full narrative of examples, including Sodom and Gomorrah
- (a) “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, **making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;** and delivered righteous

Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.” II Peter 2:4-11 NKJV

I. **God has orchestrated the whole thing and He has protected whom He wished to protect!**

(1) For I also withheld you from sinning against Me...

- (a) “Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, “Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.” But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, **“Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?** Did he not

say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' **In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."** (6) **And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.** Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.'" Genesis 20:2-7 NKJV

1. Fortunately for Abimelech he had not touched her and pleads his innocence to Yahweh as he was indeed told by Abraham that Sarah was his sister. *"Would you slay a righteous nation; I have acted in integrity and innocence."*
2. **Yahweh's response is telling, as it teaches us that Yahweh was in control the whole time, just like He was with Pharaoh and Abraham and will be again with Pharaoh and Moses: "I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. **For I also withheld you from sinning against Me."****
3. **Note:** of course, with Pharaoh at the time of Moses Yahweh does the opposite. Instead of keeping

Pharaoh from sinning He hardens his heart so He can punish him!

(2) God is in control!

(a) “And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, **that the purpose of God according to election might stand**, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.””

Romans 9:10-13 NKJV

(b) “For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “**For this very purpose I have raised you up**, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.” Romans 9:17-18

NKJV

(c) “You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” But indeed, O man, **who are you to reply against God?** Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” **Does not the potter have power over the clay,**

from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?" Romans 9:19-21 NKJV

- (d) "You are my hiding place; **You shall preserve me from trouble**; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah" Psalms 32:7 NKJV
- (e) "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**" Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV
- (f) "And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NKJV

YOUR ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

2. Abraham and Isaac, a Test of Faith for All Times

A. God provides where He guides; faith is a combination of hearing and doing

- (1) **Take now your son, your only son!, and give him up! See what happens when you do!**
 - (a) "Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said,

“Here I am.” Then He said, “**Take now your son, your only son Isaac**, whom you love, and go to the land of **Moriah [same location as the crucifixion]**, and offer him there as a **burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”” Genesis 22:1-2 NKJV

- (2) What ensues is the prophetic foreshadowing of the most famous verse in the Bible
- (a) “For God so loved the world that He **gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 NKJV
- (b) “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. **Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the**

stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.” Hebrews 11:8-12 NKJV

- (c) “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises **offered up his only begotten son**, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.” Hebrews 11:17-19 NKJV

B. What it means to be a living sacrifice

- (1) Issac—a burnt offering, why?
- (a) **Burnt offering—that which goes up, ascent, stairway, steps:** “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 the wood **for the burnt offering**, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.” Genesis 22:3 NKJV
- (b) **Noah too offers a burnt offering!** “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and **offered burnt offerings** on the altar. And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of

man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done." Genesis 8:20-21 NKJV

(2) Attributes of the Burnt offering! BURN IT ALL and NEVER LET THE FIRE GO OUT!

(a) "but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water.

And the priest shall **burn all on the altar** as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD." Leviticus 1:9 NKJV

(b) "but he shall wash the entrails and the legs with water.

Then the priest shall **bring it all and burn it on the altar;** it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD." Leviticus 1:13 NKJV

(c) "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Command Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering shall be on the hearth upon the altar all night until morning, **and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it...And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out.** And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. **A fire shall always be**

burning on the altar; it shall never go out.” Leviticus 6:8-9, 12-13 NKJV

(3) The Living Sacrifice

- (a) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable** service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and **acceptable** and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

C. A third day return to life

(1) On the third day...

- (a) “Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.” Genesis 22:4 NKJV

(2) On the third day He will raise us up...

- (a) “Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; **On the third day He will raise us up**, That we may live in His sight. Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.” Hosea 6:1-3 NKJV

(3) In three days I will raise it up...

(a) “Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and **in three days I will raise it up.**” Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.” John 2:19-22 NKJV

(4) Three days and three nights...

(a) “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.** The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.”

Matthew 12:38-41 NKJV

(5) He rose again the third day...

- (a) “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that **He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NKJV

D. The worship and faith connection—I am going all in because I am certain God’s got this!

(1) I’ll be right back!

- (a) “And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and **worship**, and **we will come back** to you.”” Genesis 22:5 NKJV

(2) He will not forsake you...

- (a) “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. **He will not leave you nor forsake you.**” Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV

(3) Just let God know what you need...

- (a) “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

(4) He supplies all your needs...

- (a) “And my **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19
NKJV
- (5) A way of escape...
- (a) “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**” I Corinthians 10:12-13
NKJV

E. The ram of God and lamb of God

- (1) It is not just Abraham who demonstrates radical faith based obedience—so too does Isaac
- (a) “So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But **Isaac spoke to Abraham** his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, **“Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”**” Genesis 22:6-7 NKJV
- (2) Abraham knows Yahweh will provide...

- (a) “And Abraham said, “My son, **God will provide** for Himself the **lamb for a burnt offering.**” So the two of them went together.” Genesis 22:8 NKJV
- (3) God provides the propitiation for our sins!
- (a) “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” I John 2:1-2 NKJV
- (4) Yahweh actually provides a ram not a lamb of Isaac. Why?
- (a) “Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. **So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.**” Genesis 22:13 NKJV
- (b) “And Abraham called the name of the place, The- LORD -Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”” Genesis 22:14 NKJV
1. Had Yahweh provided a lamb there would have been many who argued that there need be no later fulfillment of the promise that—**God still needs to provide** for Himself the **lamb**.

(c) “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29 NKJV

(d) “Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover [lamb]**, was sacrificed for us.” I Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

F. The significance of descendants as numerous as stars and sands

(1) The Exclamation Point on Yahweh’s Promise to Abraham

(a) “Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and **have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore**; and your descendants 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 rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.” Genesis 22:15-19 NKJV

(2) [A LOOK BACK]

(a) **Sand**—“And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see **I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth;** so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.” Genesis 13:14-16 NKJV

(b) **Stars**—“And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “**This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.**” Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and **count the stars** if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:4-6 NKJV

(3) [A LOOK AHEAD]

(a) **Sand**—Jacob in prayer.—“For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the **sand**

of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' ""

Genesis 32:12 NKJV

(b) **To Isaac**—“And I will make your descendants multiply as **the stars of heaven**; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;” Genesis 26:4 NKJV

(c) **To Israel** —“You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the **stars of heaven** in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 28:62 NKJV

(d) **To the tribes**—“The LORD your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the **stars of heaven** in multitude.” Deuteronomy 1:10 NKJV

(e) **Israel**—“But David did not take the number of those twenty years old and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel like the **stars of the heavens**.” I Chronicles 27:23 NKJV

(f) **Abraham, Isaac, and Israel**—“Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the **stars of heaven**; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ "" Exodus 32:13 NKJV

(4) To one man Abraham...

- (a) “Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the **stars of the sky** in multitude—innumerable as the **sand which is by the seashore.**”

Hebrews 11:12 NKJV

(5) In Heaven, On earth, and Under the earth

- (a) “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in **heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

G. The singular “seed” of promise

(1) Abraham’s Seed

(2) "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." Genesis 22:18 NKJV

(3) Seed not seeds!

(a) "Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. **Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.** And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise." Galatians 3:15-18 NKJV

(b) "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**" Galatians 3:26-29 NKJV

H. Fear Not, He Already Has Your Spouse Picked Out!

(1) Rebekah

- (a) The Portion finishes with Abraham being informed about his brother Nahor and his wife Milcah being blessed with eight sons. One of them Bethuel, who became the father of **Rebekah!** This is obviously significant because this narrative of Abraham's and Issac's faith, which affirms Issac as the SEED OF PROMISE, ends with the introduction of the women who one day would be Issac's wife! Nahor also had four sons via Reumah his concubine, for a total of twelve sons.

(2) Rebekah becomes Isaac's wife

- (a) "And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, **Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother,** came out with her pitcher on her shoulder... Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists... Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. **Here is**

Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." ...Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah **and she became his wife**, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." Genesis 24:15, 47, 50-51, 67 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Discuss the idea of Yahweh's promises being fulfilled at appointed times.**
 - A. Why is this so significant in regards to Abraham?
- 2. What does it mean that God does nothing without first revealing it to His servants the prophets?**
 - A. In what ways was Abraham acting as a prophet?
- 3. Relate the grave error of Lot's wife looking back with how we are supposed to view sin today.**
 - A. Explain what it likely means that she was turned into a "pillar of salt."
- 4. Yahweh provides where He guides:**
 - A. How did this show up in the faith of Abraham when he was instructed to sacrifice Isaac?

- B. Abraham ensured Isaac that God would provide for Himself a lamb, and what He did provide was a ram, why?
- C. Why was it significant that Abraham said, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."?

5. The type of offering Yahweh told Abraham that Isaac would be was a burnt offering:

- A. What is most significant about a burnt offering?
- B. How might this relate to the living sacrifice of Romans 12:1-2?