



## A Test for Discerning True Faith Genesis 22:1-14

*So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided" (Genesis 22:14)—ESV).*

God promised Abraham that he would have a multitude of descendants through his son Isaac. God kept His promise: Jesus' genealogy can be traced through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 1:1-2). Today, the nation of Israel contains many physical descendants of Isaac. Abraham believed God's promise to him concerning Isaac, but how deep and strong was Abraham's faith? When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham rose early the next morning to cut wood and leave for the area of Moriah where the LORD told him to go. Trusting in God's promises, that he knew God would keep in some way, Abraham went. When Abraham and Isaac left to worship the LORD on the mountain, in faith he told Isaac and his two servants: "***we*** will come back to you" (Genesis 22:5). When Isaac asked about the lamb, in faith Isaac said: "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (Genesis 22:8). At every point along the way, when Abraham could have been tempted to run back home, Abraham kept trusting that the LORD would provide a way to fulfill His promises and save his son. Only at the very last moment, after Abraham took the knife to slay his son, did the angel of the LORD stop him and provide a ram for a substitute sacrifice.

The Bible shows how God always keeps His promises no matter what happens or how things may appear hopeless to us. As Abraham demonstrated, faith includes believing God, obeying God (the Bible's teachings), and entrusting the consequences of our obedience to God's loving care. God will never fail to keep all the promises He has made in the Bible. As John H. Stockton wrote in his hymn, "Only trust Him, only trust Him, only trust Him now; He will save you, He will save you, He will save you now." Our trust in God shows our true faith.