

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. Genesis 22:6–8 (ESV)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take 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 22:1–2 (ESV)

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." Genesis 22:3–5 (ESV)

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 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 22:9–14 (ESV)

1. Why does God test us?

1. God tests our faith to build our patience and mature our character.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2–4 (ESV)

2. God tests our faith to purify us from sin like metal in a furnace.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. Psalm 66:10 (ESV)

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. Isaiah 48:10 (ESV)

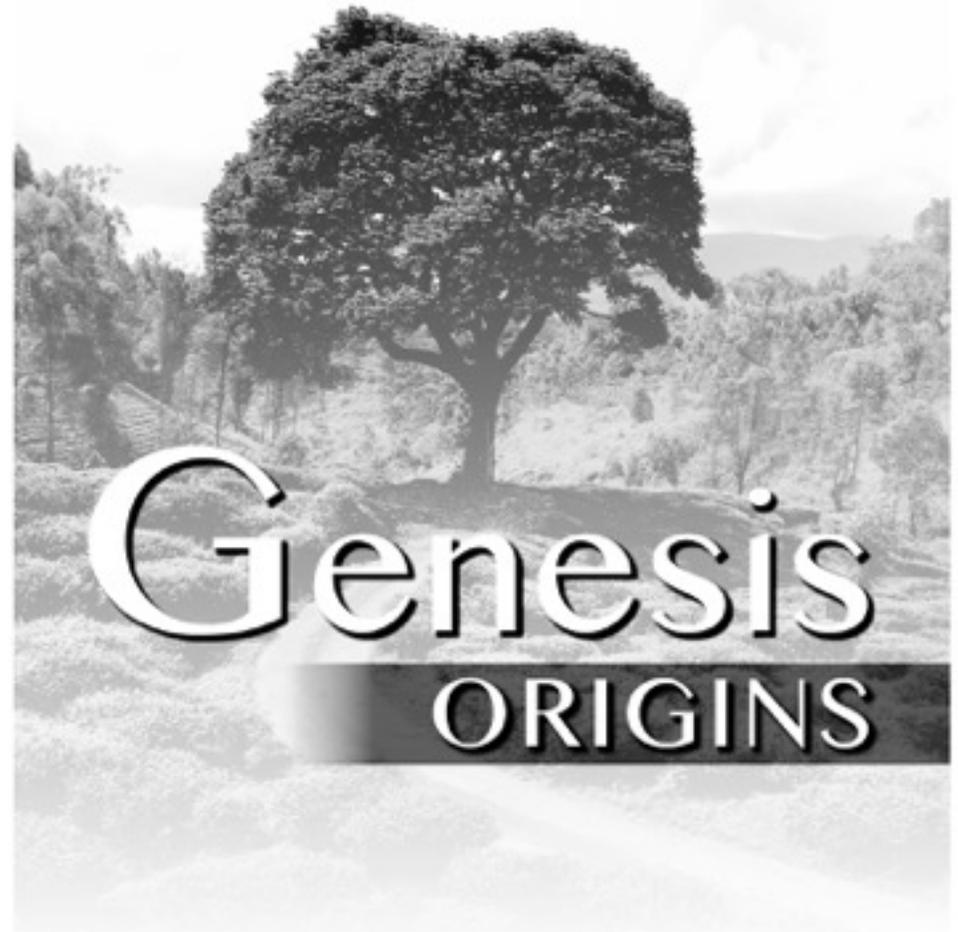
Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. Psalm 119:67 (ESV)

The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the Lord tests hearts. Proverbs 17:3 (ESV)

3. God tests our faith to pass it on to those we love.

The only thing worse than seeing your son die with Christ is seeing your son live without him.

March 20 - Genesis 22 - Christ
March 27 - Easter at the SAMI - 10:30 AM



Genesis 22 — Tests



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