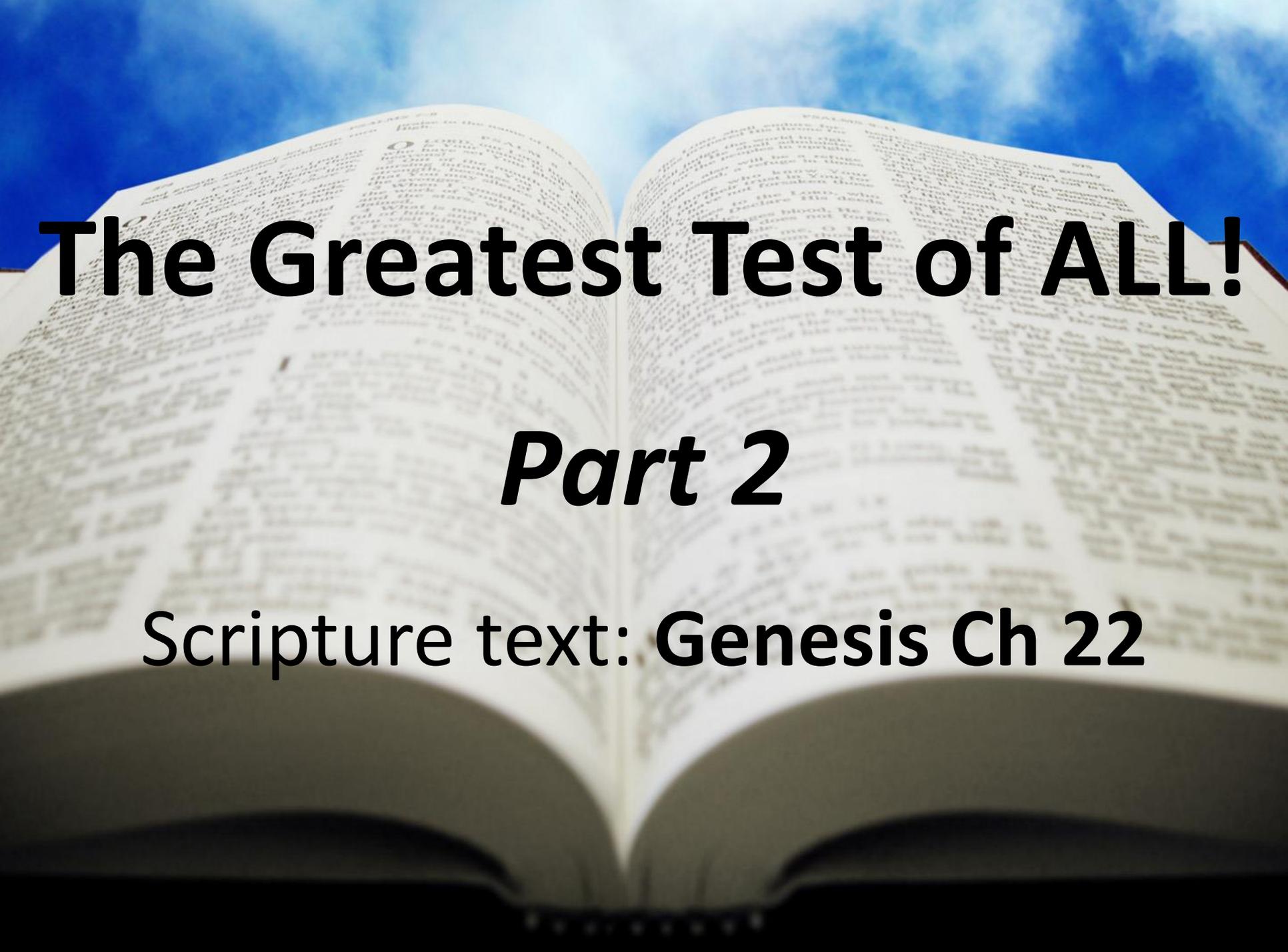


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# **The Greatest Test of ALL!**

## ***Part 2***

Scripture text: **Genesis Ch 22**

**Genesis 22 records the greatest test that Abraham ever faced.** True, it also presents a beautiful picture of our Lord's sacrifice at Calvary; but **the main lesson is obedient faith that overcomes in the trials of life.** Abraham teaches us **how to face and handle the tests of life to the glory of God.** Consider five simple instructions.

**1. Expect tests from God.**

**2. Focus on promises, not explanations.**

### 3. Depend on God's provision (Gen. 22:6–14)

Two statements reveal the emphasis of this passage: “God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering” (Gen. 22:8); and **“Jehovah-jireh”** (22:14), which means, *“The Lord will see to it,”* that is, **“The Lord will provide.”**

As he climbed Mount Moriah with his son, **Abraham was confident that God would meet every need.**

**On what could Abraham depend? He certainly could not depend on his feelings, for there must have been terrible pain within as he contemplated slaying his son on the altar. He loved his only son, but he also loved his God and wanted to obey Him.**

*Nor could Abraham depend on other people. Sarah was at home, and the two servants who accompanied him were back at the camp. We thank God for friends and family members who can help us carry our burdens, but there are some trials in life that we must face alone. *It is only then that we can see what our Father really can do for us!**

**Abraham could depend on the promise and provision of the Lord. He had already experienced the resurrection power of God in his own body (Rom. 4:19–21), so he knew that God could raise Isaac from the dead if that was His plan.**

Apparently no resurrections had taken place before that time, so **Abraham was exercising great faith in God.**

**Romans 4:18-21** In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "**So shall your offspring be.**" He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. **No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God,** but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, **fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.**

According to Ephesians 1:19–20 and 3:20–21, **believers today have Christ’s resurrection power available in their own bodies as they yield to the Spirit of God.** We can know “the power of His resurrection” (Phil. 3:10) as we face the daily demands and trials of life. When the situation appears to be hopeless, ask yourself, **“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”** (Gen. 18:14) and remind yourself, **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”** (Phil. 4:13, NKJV).

**Ephesians 1:18-21** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, **that you may know** what is **the hope to which he has called you**, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and **what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe**, according to the working of his great might that he worked **in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named**, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

**Ephesians 3:17-21** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Philippians 3:8-11** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

**Philippians 4:9-13** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--**practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for **I have learned** in whatever situation I am **to be content**. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, **I have learned the secret** of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)

**Philippians 4:13** I am able to do all things through the help of Christ, which strengtheneth me. (Geneva)

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

**God did provide the sacrifice that was needed,**  
and a ram took Isaac's place on the altar (Gen.  
22:13).

Abraham discovered a new name for God—  
“Jehovah-jireh”—which can be translated “The  
Lord will see to it” or “The Lord will be seen.”  
The statement “In the mount of the Lord it shall  
be seen” helps us understand some truths  
about the provision of the Lord.

**Where does the Lord provide our needs?**

In the place of His assignment.

*Abraham was at the right place, so God could meet his needs. We have no right to expect the provision of God if we are not in the will of God.*

**Remember: the safest place to be, is in the center of God's Will!**

**When does God meet our needs?** Just when we have the need and not a minute before. When you bring your requests to the throne of grace, God answers with mercy and grace “in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). Sometimes it looks like God waits until the last minute to send help, but that is only from our human point of view. **God is never late.**

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and **find grace to help in time of need.**

**How does God provide for us?** In ways that are usually quite natural. God did not send an angel with a sacrifice; He simply allowed a ram to get caught in a bush at a time when Abraham needed it and in a place where Abraham could get his hands on it. **All Abraham needed was one animal,** so God did not send a whole flock of sheep.

**Genesis 22:13** And Abraham **lifted up his eyes,** and looked, and behold behind *him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.*

**To whom does God give His provision?**

**To those who trust Him and obey His instructions.** When we are **doing the will of God**, we have the right to expect the provision of God. A deacon in the first church I pastored used to remind us, ***“When God’s work is done in God’s way, it will not lack God’s support.”*** God is not obligated to bless my ideas or projects, but **He is obligated to support His work if it is done in His way.**

# Why does God provide our every need?

For the great glory of His name! “Hallowed be Thy name” is the first petition in the Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9–13), and it governs all the other requests. **God was glorified on Mount Moriah because Abraham and Isaac did the will of the Lord and glorified Jesus Christ.** We must pause to consider this important truth.

**Matthew 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Matthew 6:9-13** Pray then like this: "**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Luke 11:2-4** And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "**Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.** Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

## 4. Seek to glorify Christ

In times of testing, it is easy to think only about our needs and our burdens; instead, *we should be focusing on bringing glory to Jesus Christ.* We find ourselves asking “**How can I get out of this?**” instead of “**What can I get out of this that will honor the Lord?**” We sometimes *waste our sufferings by neglecting or ignoring opportunities to reveal Jesus Christ to others who are watching us go through the furnace.*