

**The experience of God of Abraham's family
in Genesis 22-25**

**and how Abraham's family paid great importance to the
cultivation of their 2nd generation**

When God tested (perfected) Abraham, he was actually testing (perfected) his whole family. If God tests (perfects) a serving one, and may actually test (perfect) the whole church

Gen 22:1 After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, “Abraham!”
And he said, “**Here I am.**”

Gen 22:2 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.”

God’s test here is not only to test Abraham, but also Sarah and Isaac. Praise our Lord, the life level of these three (the whole household) was ready for God’s test and they passed the test. Unfortunately, Hagar and Ishmael somewhat did not pass the test in their living because of the failure of “the church service teams.”

**How about our family and church including the 2nd generation?
Can they often pass God’s tests (perfections)?**

Gen 23:16 Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, **four hundred shekels of silver**, according to the weights current among the merchants.

Gen 23:17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over

Gen 23:18 to **Abraham as a possession** in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

Gen 23:19 After this, **Abraham buried Sarah his wife in** the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, **Hebron**) in the land of Canaan.

Abraham did not actually have any land at all, lived in a tent with Sarah and needed to purchase a land to bury Sarah. What does that mean to us?

Gen 13:14 Jehovah said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, **“Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,**

Gen 13:15 **for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.**

Gen 13:16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

Gen 13:17 **Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”**

It seemed that God gave Abraham a grand land. Did God give him? Yes. Did Abraham own any land at all? No. What does this mean to us?

Starting from Genesis chapter 12

Abraham and Sarah continue to grow in life of God

Gen 23:17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over

Gen 23:18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

Gen 23:19 After this, **Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron)** in the land of Canaan.

Gen 23:20 The field and the cave that is in it were made over **to Abraham as property** for a burying place by the Hittites.

In Genesis 22, Abraham and Sarah offered Isaac as a burnt offering to God. This is a very, very high level of spiritual knowledge. At that time, they truly realized and experienced that God can give life (cause nothing into being), and to a certain extent they have experienced that God can resurrect the dead. But in Genesis 23, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in Hebron. I believe that Abraham and Sarah really understood that God could raise the dead and gave them eternal life (They also taught Isaac, Isaac also taught Jacob; Gen 49:31). The life level of Abraham and Sarah here was higher than that of Genesis 22.

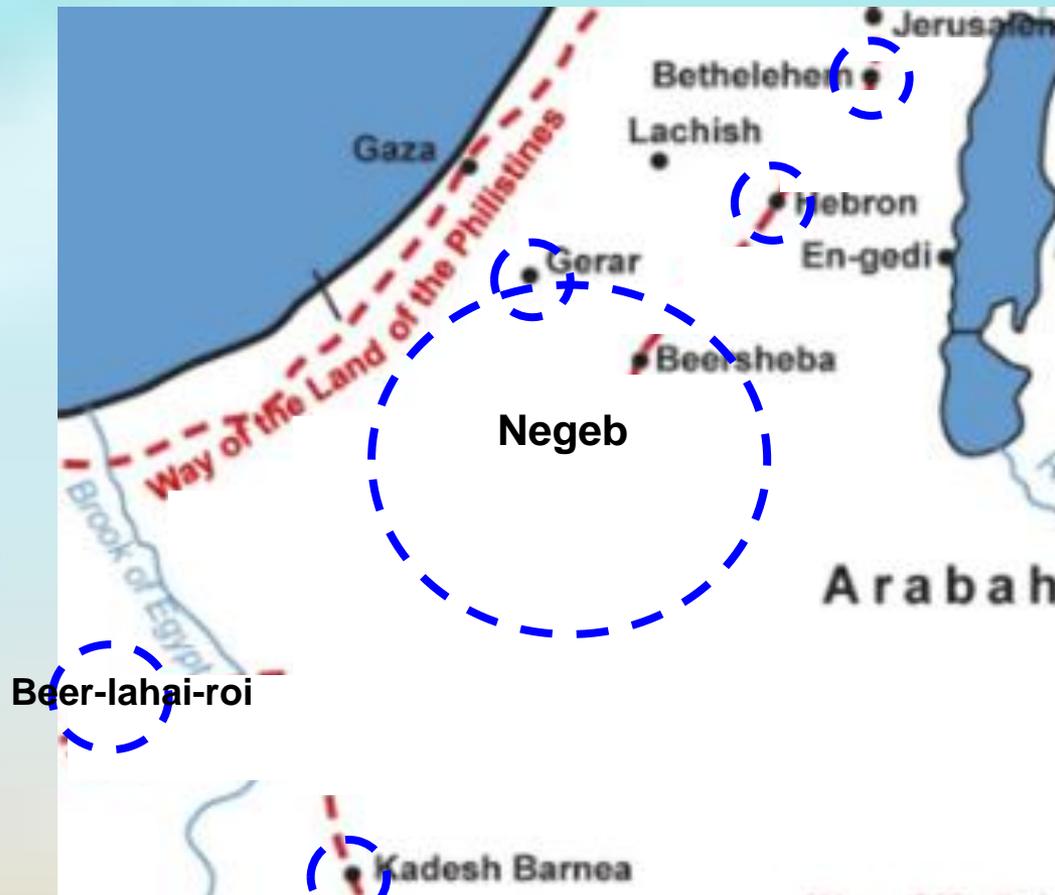
Gen 25:9 **Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah**, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,

Gen 49:31 **There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebecca his wife, and there I (Jacob) buried Leah,**

Before Sarah died, Abraham and her moved from Beersheba to Hebron.

Gen 23:1 Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. (Abraham was 137 years old; Ishmael was 51 years old and Isaac was 37 years old)

Gen 23:2 And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.



Gen 21:31 Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath.

Gen 21:32 So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines.

Gen 21:33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of Jehovah, the Everlasting God.

Gen 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

**Abraham (Sarah), Isaac (Rebecca) and Jacob (Leah)
lived in a tent all their lives (not attracted by this crooked world)**

Gen 12:4 So Abram went, as Jehovah had told him, and Lot went with him. **Abram was 75 years old (Sarah 65) when he departed from Haran.**

Gen 12:8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and **pitched his tent**, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of Jehovah.

Gen 18:6 And **Abraham (99 years old)** went quickly **into the tent to Sarah (89 years old)** and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes."

Gen 24:67 **Then Isaac (40 years old; Abraham 140 years old) brought her into the tent of Sarah (Sarah died at 127 years old; Isaac was 37 years old) his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife**, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Heb 11:9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, **living in tents with Isaac and Jacob**, heirs with him of the same promise.

Abraham and Sarah always lived in a tent even they were so rich. They also taught Isaac and Isaac taught Jacob. How about us?

Heb 11:16 But as it is, **they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

**Abraham paid great attention to the marriage of his son (2nd generation).
Please note that Isaac already loved the Lord very much
(offering himself as a burnt offering to God)**

Gen 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And **Jehovah had blessed Abraham in all things.**

Gen 24:2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh,

Gen 24:3 that I may make you swear by Jehovah, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that **you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites**, among whom I dwell,

Gen 24:4 **but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.**”

Gen 24:5 The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”

Gen 24:6 Abraham said to him, “See to it that **you do not take my son back there.**

The key inspiration for me in Genesis 24 is that we need to pay special attention to our 2nd generation - our children (eg. Isaac was willing to be offered as a burnt offering to God). Abraham did just that, and after Jehovah blessed him everything, he asked his servant to find a spouse for Isaac. Marriage means being one with someone or something, which is vital to the growth of any Christian, especially for our 2nd generation (eg. Isaac already had a high life of God).

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world (every one in the world), that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Gen 25:5 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. (John 3:35)

Gen 25:6 But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.

From God's perspective, Isaac was the only son of Abraham and the only descendant who inherited all the promises God made to Abraham in order to fulfill His will. Therefore, Isaac typified Christ as the only-begotten Son of God the Father, and God gave everything He had to the Son (**John 3:35**). Isaac offered himself to God as a burnt offering, which means that no matter what God gave us, we are willing to practice like Isaac, wholeheartedly offering it to God as a burnt offering. This shows and explains that Abraham gave everything to Isaac in Genesis 25:5.

Receive everything versus Receive just gifts

If we do not offer back to the Lord what the Lord has given us (whether including our life, health, time, work, family, housing, study... etc.), these things, including all blessings, will become our gift. As mentioned in Genesis 25:6. In our Christian life, do we just receive just gifts from God without offering them back to Him as a burnt offering?

In fact, God loves the world, so He gives everything to everyone in this world equally, including Isaac, Ishmael, Hagar, Gerar's children...), but most of us like to just receive gifts from Him.

John 3:35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

God took really good care of Hagar and Ishmael

Gen 16:8 And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.”

Gen 16:9 The angel of Jehovah said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.”

Gen 16:10 The angel of Jehovah also said to her, **“I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.”**

Gen 16:11 And the angel of Jehovah said to her, “Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. **You shall call his name Ishmael**, because **Jehovah has listened to your affliction.**

Gen 16:12 **He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”**

Gen 16:13 **So she called the name of Jehovah who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,”** for she said, **“Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.”**

Gen 16:14 Therefore **the well was called Beer-lahai-roi**; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

Gen 16:15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram (**86 years old**) called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

From this passage in the Bible, I really appreciate the fact that in church life, God does take care of each of us carefully (for example, He took care of the sinner's Hagar, Ishmael , Sarah and Abram).

Hagar also had an intimate dialogue with God. She listened to and obeyed God's command (God spoke to her directly and clearly) and returned to Sarah. God appeared to her at a well in the wilderness. The well was called Beer-lahai-roi;, about 120 kilometers away from Hebron, where Abraham and Sarah lived. Do we often have intimate fellowship with God and submit ourselves to His speaking?

Hagar did not know how to take care the 2nd generation; how about us?

Gen 21:13 And **I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.**”

Gen 21:14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

Gen 21:15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes.

Gen 21:16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

Gen 21:17 **And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.**

Gen 21:18 **Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”**

Gen 21:19 Then **God opened her eyes**, and **she saw a well of water**. And **she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.**

Gen 21:17 – 19 show that God really took good care of Hagar and Ishmael.

“Well” symbolizes the source of life and the fact that God was with Ishmael and Hagar. However, **Hagar (who represents a serving one in the church life)** did not know God’s heart desire. Sadly, she led Ishmael to grow up in the wilderness of Paran and she also took a wife for him from the land of Egypt . Hagar completely forgot the nearby well at Beer-lahai-roi where God appeared to her before.

Gen 21:20 And **God was with the boy**, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow.

Gen 21:21 **He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.**

Gen 25:9 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,

Gen 25:17a These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years.

In our living today do we love the Lord better than Ishmael did?

Gen 25:7 These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years (Isaac was 75 years; Ishmael was 89 years old).

Gen 25:8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Gen 25:9 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,

Gen 25:10 the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.

Gen 25:11 After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham in the cave of Machpelah. Ishmael would have understood something spiritually from this burial.

Ishmael was circumcised when he was 13 years old, and lived 137 years according to God's promise to bless all of Abraham's descendants. He travelled a long distance back to Hebron to bury with Isaac his father Abraham.

Gen 25:17 (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)

Gen 25:18 They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.