

13 Tests to Glory
Abraham's Growth to Maturity
Lesson 2

Genesis 12–22

Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul

James 1:3; John 15:11; 17:13

**Personal Love
for God
Deut. 6:5**

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35**

**Occupation with
Christ
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20**

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny

Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

**Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6**

**Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18**

**Doctrinal
Orientation
2 Pet. 3:18**

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit

Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9

James 1:2, “My brethren, count it all joy when you encounter into various tests of adversity or prosperity (trials), [RD]

James 1:3, “because you know that the testing [evaluation] of your faith produces endurance. [RD]

James 1:4, “But let endurance have its maturing work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” [RD]

Heb. 11:8, “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.”

Test #1:

**The test to go to a new land and to leave the family behind.
Gen. 12:1–9 (Land Promise; Faith-Rest Drill)**

THE PROMISE: Gen. 12:1–4

**God promised a land, an innumerable progeny, and
worldwide blessing through his descendants**

THE TEST: to leave or not to leave

The Promise

Gen. 12:2, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing!

Gen. 12:3, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will judge harshly him who treats you with disrespect; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” [RD]

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

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Genesis 12:1–13

“land”

“seed”

“blessing”

ISRAEL LAND COVENANT

Deuteronomy 30

“land”

DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Samuel 7

“seed”

NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 31

“blessing”

Genesis 12:5, “And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.”

Test #2:

The test to trust God by staying in the land during the famine. Gen. 12:10–20 (Land; Faith-Rest Drill; Grace Orientation)

THE PROMISE:

Gen. 12:7, “Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.” [NKJV]

THE TEST: The Famine, Gen. 12:10

Test #3:

A People test resolved through the use of the Faith-Rest Drill along with Grace Orientation.

PROMISE: The Land, Gen. 12:7

TEST: Strife between Abraham's and Lot's workers.

PASSED: Using Faith-Rest Drill and Grace Orientation.

THE PROMISE Made Again

Gen. 13:14, “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;

Gen. 13:15, “ ‘for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

**Gen. 13:16, “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.”
[NKJV]**

Test #4:

The Command: “You shall be a blessing”

**Gen. 12:2, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.”
[NKJV]**

TEST: To help the radical LGBTQ activists in Sodom who are taken prisoner, or not.

RESULT: Passes; Loves his neighbor like himself, but rejects the offered of a reward from the king of Sodom.

Test #5:

The test to express his gratitude to God.

Gen. 14:18–24 (Grace Orientation)

TEST: Will he be grateful to God and give Him the credit?

RESULT: He passes, refuses the reward from the Sodom king; gives a tithe to Melchizedek.

Test #6:

The Worry and Fear Factor (Seed; Faith-Rest Drill)

COMMAND: Gen. 15:1, “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ ”

Test #6:

COMMAND: Gen. 15:1, “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ ”

ABRAM’S Human Viewpoint Response:

Gen. 15:2, “But Abram said, Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

Gen. 15:3, “Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’ ”

Test #6:

GOD'S PROMISE:

Gen. 15:4, “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.’”

Gen. 15:5, “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.’ ” [NKJV]

Test #6:

GOD'S PROMISE:

The heir will be from your own body.

The descendants will be innumerable like the stars of heaven.

Gen. 15:6, “And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” [NKJV]

This is a parenthetical remark. The Hebrew consecutive narrative style is broken by the sentence shifting from the “and consecutive (imperfect) verb” to “and with a perfect tense verb.” This is a reminder to the reader that the action of Gen. 15:6 took place in the undefined past.

“And he had already believed in the Lord and He had accounted it to him for righteousness,” [RD]

Gen. 15:7, “Then He said to him, ‘I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.’

Gen. 15:8, “And he said, ‘Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’

Gen. 15:9, “So He said to him, ‘Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ ”

Gen. 15:13, “Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

Gen. 15:14, “ ‘And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Gen. 15:15, “ ‘Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

Gen. 15:16, “ ‘But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’

Gen. 15:17, “And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.”

[NKJV]

Test #6:

Result: Abraham believed God

This is unstated, but we know it because he no longer looks to Eliezer as the potential heir.

He passes this test.

Test #7:

**The Hagar Test; The Waiting Test (Seed; Faith-Rest Drill)
Operation “Let’s help God”**

The human solution is a defective solution!

Test #7: The Hagar Test Operation “Let’s help God”

**PROMISE: God will provide a descendant through Abraham.
Gen. 15:2–3**

Gen. 15:18, “On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Gen. 15:19, “the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,

Gen. 15:20, “the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

Gen. 15:21, “the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” [NKJV]

Gen. 16:1, “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Gen. 16:2, “So Sarai said to Abram, ‘See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.’ And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

Gen. 16:3, “Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.”

[NKJV]

Test #7:

Waiting on the Lord

Abraham needed to wait on the Lord, but he doesn't.

Isa. 30:18, “Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.”

Isa. 40:31, “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Psa. 37:34, “Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.”

Psa. 62:5, “My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.”

Jeremiah 14:22, “Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.”

Psa. 27:14, “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

Psa. 33:20, “Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.”

Psa. 37:7, “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.”

Gen. 16:4, “So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

Gen. 16:5, “Then Sarai said to Abram, ‘My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The Lord judge between you and me.’

Gen. 16:6, “So Abram said to Sarai, ‘Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.’ And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.” [NKJV]

Result: Unintended Consequences of Human Viewpoint:

- **Ishmael**
- **Islam**
- **Arab-Israeli Conflict**

Test #8: The test to be circumcised. Gen. 17:1–25 (Seed; Faith-Rest Drill)

Gen. 17:1, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

Gen. 17:2, “ ‘And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.’

Gen. 17:3, “Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

Gen. 17:4, “ ‘As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

Gen. 17:5, “ ‘No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.’ ”

Test #8: The test to be circumcised. Gen. 17:1–25 (Seed; Faith-Rest Drill)

Gen. 17:6, “ ‘I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Gen. 17:7, “ ‘And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Gen. 17:8, “ ‘Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.’ ”

Test #8: The test to be circumcised. Gen. 17:1–25 (Seed; Faith-Rest Drill)

Gen. 17:9, “And God said to Abraham: ‘As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

Gen. 17:10, “This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

Gen. 17:11, “and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Gen. 17:12, “He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.”

Test #8: The test to be circumcised. Gen. 17:1–25 (Seed; Faith-Rest Drill)

Gen. 17:13, “ ‘He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Gen. 17:14, “ ‘And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.’ ”

Gen. 17:19, “Then God said: ‘No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

Gen. 17:20, “ ‘And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

Gen. 17:21, “ ‘But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.’ ”

Gen. 17:23, “So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him.

Gen. 17:24, “Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen. 17:25, “And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen. 17:26, “That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael;

Gen. 17:27, “and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.”

**Test #8: The test to be circumcised. Gen. 17:1–25 (Seed; Faith-
Rest Drill)**

Abraham trusts God and does what God told him to do.

Test #9: The test of hospitality for the visitors; Grace Orientation

The test of love for your neighbor (Lot)

Test #9: The test of hospitality for the visitors; Grace Orientation

The test of love for your neighbor (Lot)

Gen. 18:2, “So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

Gen. 18:3, “and said, ‘My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

Gen. 18:4, “ ‘Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

Gen. 18:5, “ ‘And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.’ They said, ‘Do as you have said.’ ”

**Gen. 18:9, “Then they said to him, ‘Where is Sarah your wife?’
So he said, ‘Here, in the tent.’**

**Gen. 18:10, “And He said, “I will certainly return to you
according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall
have a son.’ (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was
behind him.)**

**Gen. 18:11, “Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced
in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.**

**Gen. 18:12, “Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying,
‘After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being
old also?’ ”**

Gen. 18:13, “And the LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, saying, “Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?””

Gen. 18:14, “ ‘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.’

Gen. 18:15, “But Sarah denied it, saying, ‘I did not laugh,’ for she was afraid. And He said, ‘No, but you did laugh!’ ”