

Genesis 22:1-2

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now 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."

What if you read each story in the bible like you didn't know what was going to happen next? What do I mean? Well, I think we all know the account of today's devotional verses, with God telling Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, and we all know in the end that Abraham did not have to sacrifice his son, and that God provided a ram instead.

† **Genesis 22:12-13** *And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.*

But what if you were actually reading this for the first time, not knowing the end to the story and you got to the part where "*Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.*" **Genesis 22:10** as you are on the edge of your seat wondering if Abraham would really do it or not.

Or what about when God used Moses to lead the Children of Israel out our Egypt, and as they were finally leaving, you start to read:

† **Exodus 14:8-10** *And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.*

Not knowing how God would deliver them, with the Egyptians are on one side and the Red Sea on the other side with nowhere else for them to go. Once again, we are imagining we are reading this for the first time and not knowing that God will part the Red Sea for them to cross through.

Yeah we can imagine that. But what if you were not reading it, but you were actually living during this time and you were one of the 2 million Israelites being led out of Egypt and facing this dilemma. Would you really trust God if this were you and your family?

It's so easy to say yes when we know the outcome, because we have read the end of the stories in the bible. So it's easy when we know ahead of time. But if you lived in bible times, be it the New or Old Testament times, would you still trust in the Lord with your whole heart and lean not on your own understanding?

† **Proverbs 3:5** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.*

You say yes, because you know this verse as well, but this was written many, many years after Abraham and Moses died, so they did not have this verse to stand on. But even though they didn't, they still lived it before it was even popular and put on coffee cups.

Yet we read the word and know it. We have read the stories in the bible and know them and believe that they really did happen like the bible says they did. But let something happen to us, and how many times do we think that no one else has experienced this before, so you don't know how to handle it. But the bible says: "***Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.***" 1 Peter 4:12 Because whatever you are facing, has happened to others. You are not the only one to go through it.

But we do have the complete word of God, and pretty much every situation is covered in the bible, and if not then there are numerous bible verses that would cover any situation we are going through. So, whatever you are going through, don't just quote this next verse and say how much you love it.

† **Psalm 119:105 (KJV)** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

But actually believe it and live it, allowing God's word to guide your path in life, just as God guided Abraham and Moses and everyone else in the bible to go through various things, so that we could have God's word as a guiding light for us all, and for all the situations that will come up in life.

Plus we have read the end of the book, we know without a doubt that God comes through victorious, and so do we as believers in Christ Jesus; therefore, we know the end of the story that we call life here on this earth, and eternal life with God our Father in heaven and Jesus Christ our Savior.

† **Revelation 22:20** *He who testifies to these things says, "***Surely I am coming quickly.***" Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*