

do. <sup>23</sup>Now swear to me here before God that you will not deal falsely with me or my children or my descendants. Show to me and the country where you now reside as a foreigner the same kindness I have shown to you."

<sup>24</sup>Abraham said, "I swear it."

<sup>25</sup>Then Abraham complained to Abimelek about a well of water that Abimelek's servants had seized. <sup>26</sup>But Abimelek said, "I don't know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today."

<sup>27</sup>So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelek, and the two men made a treaty. <sup>28</sup>Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, <sup>29</sup>and Abimelek asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?"

<sup>30</sup>He replied, "Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well."

<sup>31</sup>So that place was called Beersheba,<sup>a</sup> because the two men swore an oath there.

<sup>32</sup>After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces returned to the land of the Philistines. <sup>33</sup>Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Eternal God. <sup>34</sup>And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

### Abraham Tested

**22** Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>2</sup>Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

<sup>3</sup>Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup>He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

<sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac,

and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup>Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup>Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup>When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>12</sup>"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram<sup>b</sup> caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup>and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and through your offspring<sup>c</sup> all nations on earth will be blessed,<sup>d</sup> because you have obeyed me."

<sup>19</sup>Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

### Nahor's Sons

<sup>20</sup>Some time later Abraham was told, "Milkah is also a mother; she has borne sons to your brother Nahor: <sup>21</sup>Uz the

<sup>a</sup> 31 Beersheba can mean well of seven and well of the oath. <sup>b</sup> 13 Many manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint and Syriac; most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text a ram behind him <sup>c</sup> 18 Or seed <sup>d</sup> 18 Or and all nations on earth will use the name of your offspring in blessings (see 48:20)

## BELIEVE IN GOD'S PROVISION

GENESIS 22:1-19

Abraham walked an almost impossible path as he trudged up the mountain with his son Isaac. He knew God's character—that he was for life—but Abraham also carried the burden of being faithful to what God was asking of him. As Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" there must have been anxiety looming behind his question.

Abraham's answer? God would provide the lamb. And indeed, he did.

Abraham's faith ushered in the beginning of a people, a nation, and a stage on which the Messiah would someday appear, becoming the Lamb of God for us all.

This story reveals something powerful. God the Father did what he prevented Abraham from doing. He proved his faithfulness by sacrificing his own Son (Jesus) so we could be in a relationship with him. That's how much he loves us, how much he loves you.

Abraham's faith in God's provision was rewarded. Abraham's descendants, numerous as the stars, vast as the sand on the seashore, now include all those who have placed their trust in Christ and have been purchased with the blood of the faithful Lamb of God.

As faith-filled followers of Jesus, we have the holy privilege of carrying that blessing to a world that needs to know God and his faithfulness.

*Lord, I want to believe you always provide. I want to learn from Abraham's faith. Help me to share your blessings with others and proclaim your faithfulness to those who need to know. Amen.*

Recall a time in your life when you had to trust God for an outcome. How did he provide for you? What did that lesson teach you about God's faithfulness?

*if Faith*

to wipe them off the face of the earth? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' <sup>14</sup>Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

<sup>15</sup>Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. <sup>16</sup>The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

<sup>17</sup>When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."

<sup>18</sup>Moses replied:

"It is not the sound of victory,  
it is not the sound of defeat;  
it is the sound of singing that I  
hear."

<sup>19</sup>When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup>And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

<sup>21</sup>He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

<sup>22</sup>"Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup>They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' <sup>24</sup>So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

<sup>25</sup>Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. <sup>26</sup>So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his broth-

er and friend and neighbor.'" <sup>28</sup>The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

<sup>30</sup>The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

<sup>31</sup>So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. <sup>32</sup>But now, please forgive their sin — but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

<sup>33</sup>The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. <sup>34</sup>Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

<sup>35</sup>And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

**33** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' <sup>2</sup>I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>3</sup>Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

<sup>4</sup>When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.'" <sup>6</sup>So the Israelites stripped off their ornaments at Mount Horeb.

### The Tent of Meeting

<sup>7</sup>Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. <sup>8</sup>And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. <sup>9</sup>As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud

would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. <sup>10</sup>Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. <sup>11</sup>The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

### Moses and the Glory of the LORD

<sup>12</sup>Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' <sup>13</sup>If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. <sup>16</sup>How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

<sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup>And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup>But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup>Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup>When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

### The New Stone Tablets

**34** The LORD said to Moses, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you

broke. <sup>2</sup>Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup>No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain."

<sup>4</sup>So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. <sup>5</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

<sup>8</sup>Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. <sup>9</sup>"Lord," he said, "if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

<sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you. <sup>11</sup>Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>12</sup>Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. <sup>13</sup>Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. <sup>14</sup>Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

<sup>15</sup>"Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. <sup>16</sup>And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

<sup>17</sup>"Do not make any idols.

<sup>8</sup> 13 That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah

<sup>37</sup> They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest;  
<sup>38</sup> he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.

<sup>39</sup> Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled by oppression, calamity and sorrow;

<sup>40</sup> he who pours contempt on nobles made them wander in a trackless waste.

<sup>41</sup> But he lifted the needy out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks.

<sup>42</sup> The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths.

<sup>43</sup> Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD.

### Psalm 108<sup>a</sup>

*A song. A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

<sup>2</sup> Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

<sup>3</sup> I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered.

<sup>7</sup> God has spoken from his sanctuary: "In triumph I will parcel out Shechem and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah is my scepter.

<sup>9</sup> Moab is my washbasin, on Edom I toss my sandal; over Philistia I shout in triumph."

<sup>a</sup> In Hebrew texts 108:1-13 is numbered 108:2-14.

<sup>10</sup> Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?

<sup>11</sup> Is it not you, God, you who have rejected us and no longer go out with our armies?

<sup>12</sup> Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless.

<sup>13</sup> With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.

### Psalm 109

*For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup> My God, whom I praise, do not remain silent,

<sup>2</sup> for people who are wicked and deceitful

have opened their mouths against me;

they have spoken against me with lying tongues.

<sup>3</sup> With words of hatred they surround me;

they attack me without cause.

<sup>4</sup> In return for my friendship they accuse me,

but I am a man of prayer.

<sup>5</sup> They repay me evil for good, and hatred for my friendship.

<sup>6</sup> Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy;

let an accuser stand at his right hand.

<sup>7</sup> When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him.

<sup>8</sup> May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.

<sup>9</sup> May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.

<sup>10</sup> May his children be wandering beggars; may they be driven<sup>b</sup> from their ruined homes.

<sup>11</sup> May a creditor seize all he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor.

<sup>12</sup> May no one extend kindness to him or take pity on his fatherless children.

<sup>13</sup> May his descendants be cut off, their names blotted out from the next generation.

<sup>14</sup> May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD; may the sin of his mother never be blotted out.

<sup>b</sup> 10 Septuagint; Hebrew sought

<sup>15</sup> May their sins always remain before the LORD, that he may blot out their name from the earth.

<sup>16</sup> For he never thought of doing a kindness, but hounded to death the poor and the needy and the brokenhearted.

<sup>17</sup> He loved to pronounce a curse — may it come back on him. He found no pleasure in blessing — may it be far from him.

<sup>18</sup> He wore cursing as his garment; it entered into his body like water, into his bones like oil.

<sup>19</sup> May it be like a cloak wrapped about him, like a belt tied forever around him.

<sup>20</sup> May this be the LORD's payment to my accusers, to those who speak evil of me.

<sup>21</sup> But you, Sovereign LORD, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.

<sup>22</sup> For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.

<sup>23</sup> I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.

<sup>24</sup> My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt.

<sup>25</sup> I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.

<sup>26</sup> Help me, LORD my God; save me according to your unfailing love.

<sup>27</sup> Let them know that it is your hand, that you, LORD, have done it.

<sup>28</sup> While they curse, may you bless; may those who attack me be put to shame, but may your servant rejoice.

<sup>29</sup> May my accusers be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.

<sup>30</sup> With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him.

<sup>31</sup> For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.

<sup>a</sup> 1 Or Lord <sup>b</sup> 3 The meaning of the Hebrew for this sentence is uncertain. <sup>c</sup> 5 Or My lord is at your right hand, LORD <sup>d</sup> 7 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain. <sup>e</sup> This psalm is an acrostic poem, the lines of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. <sup>f</sup> 1 Hebrew Hallelu Yah

### Psalm 110

*Of David. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my lord:<sup>a</sup>

"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

<sup>2</sup> The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!"

<sup>3</sup> Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand<sup>c</sup>; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

<sup>6</sup> He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

<sup>7</sup> He will drink from a brook along the way,<sup>d</sup> and so he will lift his head high.

### Psalm 111<sup>e</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.<sup>f</sup>

I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.



Help me,  
 LORD my  
 God;  
 save me  
 according  
 to your  
 unfailing  
 love.

Psalm  
 109:26

