



Refinished or Distressed?

Genesis 22:1–14 (ESV)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."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."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

1. Comebacks are for those who choose refinishing versus distressing.

- Comebacks occur when God begins to reveal the idols in my life!

Questions for idol investigation: (2 Corinthians 4:4)

1. Do I have to check with it before I say yes to God?
2. Does it suppress my appetite for God?
3. Does it distract me from my primary purpose in life?
4. Does it hurt others?
5. Does it sit in God's chair?
6. Do I overreact when it gets "distressed"?

2. Comebacks always require obedience! (Genesis 22:3)

- True faith is believing God enough to obey.
- Faith isn't measured by what we believe; it's measured by what we do.
(1 John 2:3-5)
- Tests strengthen our faith, but they also reveal our faith.
(Titus 2:11-12)

3. Comebacks are for those who trust in God's provision. (Genesis 22:7-8)

- Comebacks are for those who know God will provide. so they are not always "grabbing".