

GENESIS 22, ABRAHAM'S FAITH TESTED, ABRAHAM OFFERS UP ISAAC

Why does Yah test our faith?



Abraham

Rom. 5:3b-4 "...because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope." The testing of our faith develops great character which then produces a deeper hope in Yah. Sometimes these "faith tests" can be uncomfortable and even unpleasant, but Yah tests our faith for our good and spiritual well being.

Gen. 22:2 "Then Yahveh said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.'" Yah tells Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering.

Where does Yah tell Abraham to go?

Yah told Abraham to go to the land of Moriah. Traditionally it has been accepted that Abraham offered Isaac on Mt. Moriah. Mt. Moriah is famous for the following things that took place there:

The place where the Temple Mount stands (Acts. 2:1-13, 2Chron. 3:1-2).

The tree of life was located there in the center of the Garden Of Eden. (Gen. 3:3)

The city of Salem was located there. Melchizedek king and high priest.(Gen. 14:18)

The land of Moriah was there. (Gen. 22:1)

The shek'inah (glory) cloud was found there, filling the Temple. (2Chron. 5:11-14 & 7:1-3)

Yeshua's dedication took place there. (Luke 2:21-38)

Yeshua's circumcision took place there. (Luke 2:21-38)

The 3,000 were baptized in the Holy Spirit there at Pentecost. (Acts 2:41)

In Ezekiel's vision, the Kings throne is located there. (Rev. 21:21-22 & Ezek. 43:1-12)

When did all this occur?

Historical records put the time of Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah as being around 1676 BC.

How did Abraham respond to Yah's command?

Gen. 22:3a "Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac..." Abraham responded with complete obedience, without any delay. The fact that Avraham, and not his servants, saddled his own donkey shows the immediate obedience of Abraham.

Do you think Abraham told his wife Sarah what and where he was going with Isaac? No way! If Abraham would have told Sarah what he intended to do to their son, then she would have offered up Abraham as the burnt offering. I am sure Abraham told his wife the same thing he told his servants.

Gen. 22:5-6 "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there; we will worship and then we will return 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 the two of them walked on together.** And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "This repetition of "so the two of them walked on together", means the meaning of "so the two of them walked on together" (verse 6), is different than in verse 8. In verse 6 it was Abraham going up the mountain knowing what was going to happen. In verse 8 we see that now both of them know what is going to happen. Isaac was in agreement with his father to do this. Isaac now understand that he was the one who was going to be sacrificed. That gives a whole new understanding of the repeated words. Isaac wasn't a victim as many would have you believe, Isaac agreed with what his father Abraham said was to be done. Notice that Abraham says "we will return." **What does this show about Abraham?**

I believe Abraham knew that Yah would miraculously intervene and Isaac would be returning with him.

Prophetically speaking, the exact same thing happened when Yeshua was sacrificed by His Father at Calvary. There had to be a lamb of God sacrifice made and Yeshua knew He was to be that sacrifice. He willingly went along with the plan of redemption.

Abraham must have known in advance that Yah would do something miraculous or he would not have spoken as he did just a few verses previous. **Gen. 22:5** And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship and return to you." When Abraham took Isaac up Mt. Moriah to sacrifice him he knew Yah would not allow it to happen because he said he was returning with Isaac. "We will worship and return to you". Torah teachers say there is no redundant word in torah. If you see something repeated, there is another meaning. Exactly what Abraham knew no one knows for sure, but it does appear that he knew in advance that Yah would not allow him to hurt his son.

Let's have a look at Isaac's question in verse 7?

Gen. 22:7b "...The fire and wood are here, but **where is the lamb** for the burnt offering?" Isaac recognizes that there is something missing from the picture.

What was Abraham's response?

Gen. 22:8 "Abraham answered, '**Yah Himself will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**' And the two of them went on together." Abraham believed that Yah would be providing a lamb for sacrifice. Isaac probably realized that he was going to be the sacrificial offering, that is why it says "they went together." Abraham was 133 years old and Isaac was 37 years old. Isaac could have fled from Abraham, but Isaac submitted himself to his father and the two of them went in harmony.

Gen. 22:9 Abraham builds the altar, arranges the wood, and binds Isaac on the altar. This is the fourth recorded altar built by Abraham. **Gen. 22:10** "Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son." Despite the fact that the promises were to come through Isaac, Abraham still intended to offer Isaac.

Hebr. 11:17 "By faith, Abraham, **when he was put to the test, offered up Isaac as a sacrifice.** Yes, he offered up his only son, he who had received the promises." Abraham raised his hand with the knife. The same knife that probably circumcised the son of the promise, would now become the knife that would take the life of the son of the promise.

But before Abraham kills his son, Yahveh intervenes and calls out, "Abraham! Abraham!" **Gen. 22:12** "**Do not lay a hand on the boy,**" He said, "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear Yahveh, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Yah now sees that Abraham fears Him.

Abraham has now passed the test. We learn from this that we must be faithful all the way through to the end.

Hebr. 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises **was offering up his only begotten son;** 18 it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." 19 **He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.**" Did Abraham really have enough faith to believe that Adonai would allow Isaac to be killed for a sacrifice, and then turn around and bring him back to life? Now that's faith.

When Abraham was willing to offer up his son Isaac it was a prophetic picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah. Just as Abraham was willing to offer up his son, so too was Yah willing to offer up His son. To understand the beautiful thematic connections here, all you have to do is think of Abraham as Yahveh and Isaac as Yeshua. The picture will become loud and clear in only a few moments. Note that it took Abraham and Isaac **three** days to get to Mt. Moriah (Gen. 30:36). Remember what the number three represents?



THE PROPHETIC SIDE

Why did Adonai offer up a ram as a substitute for Isaac, when Abraham said Adonai would offer up a lamb?

Gen. 22:13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him **a ram caught in the thicket by his horns;** and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son."

Gen. 22:8 "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked

on together." When Abraham spoke these words he was speaking prophetically about Yah providing a lamb in the future. Yah provided a ram for Abraham and Isaac instead of a lamb. If Yah had provided a lamb rather than the ram, people later on would have said that that prophesy would have already been fulfilled. Abraham was, without even knowing, prophesying what would later be written about in the Book of John.

John 1:29 *The next day, Yochanan saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, "Look! **God's lamb!** The one who is taking away the sin of the world!"*

Our Isaac's

Let's talk about our Isaac's. How many people do you know that refuse to give up their Isaac's (precious possessions)? Isaac's can be for example: money, power, control, food, guilt, jealousy, unforgiveness, material things of any nature, etc.. We all have or have had our Isaac's. How many of your Isaac's have you hung onto? How many of your Isaac's have you given up? How many are you holding back on, hoarding? This is a good question for all of us.

Tradition

Gen. 22 is traditionally read during the Feast of Trumpets because the ram was caught by the horns, a representation of the shofar (Gen. 22:13).

Gen.22:14 *"Abraham called the place Yahveh Yireh (Yahveh will see), as it is said to this day, '**On the mountain Yahveh is seen.**'"*

Why did Abraham call this place Yahveh Yireh? What did Abraham see?

Abraham saw the ram that Yahveh provided. But Abraham saw much more than that.

John 8:56 *"Abraham, your father, was glad that he would see my day; then **he saw it and was overjoyed.**"*

Abraham saw the sacrificial Lamb of Yah when he saw the ram caught in the brush. Abraham saw the crucified Messiah thousands of years before the actual events. That is why Abraham called the place "Yahveh Yireh" (Yah will provide), because Yahveh showed His glory to Abraham and provided. Abraham saw all this and was overjoyed that it would be through Isaac's descendants that the Messiah would come. Gen. 22:15-18 Yah confirms again that Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as stars in the sky because Abraham obeyed Yah's command.

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