**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Eighteen**

© 2015 Jay S. McMullan

**Abraham is Instructed to Sacrifice the Son of Promise – God provides a ram for the sacrifice – Sarah dies – Looking for a wife for Isaac**

**Genesis 22 (NLT)**

**Abraham’s Faith Tested**

1Some time later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called.

“Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.”

2“Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”

The Land of Moriah was a portion of the land in Canaan. It included the Mount of Olives, the Mount of Olives, Mount Zion and Calvary.

We believe that Calvary is where this account takes place. Isn’t it amazing that this takes place on the very mountain where Jesus was crucified hundreds and hundreds of years later?

3The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about.

4On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

It was customary to start traveling early in the day when it was cool.

Abraham made all the preparations to do just as the Lord had told him, to sacrifice his son. This is complete, deliberate and utter obedience!

This was no easy walk to the convenience store! This land was very arid (desert). It was dusty and hot during the day. Everything was loaded on top of the donkey so Abraham, Isaac and the two servants had to walk.

Notice that after they had walked two days, they finally saw the mountains where God had told Abraham to go.

When I was a kid, my dad liked to take us to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado to vacation in the mountains. It was always fun when we could first start seeing the mountains in the distance. So, even when Abraham saw the mountains, they were still quite a ways ahead.

Notice what Abraham told his servants! He said they would go alone to worship and then THEY WOULD RETURN!

5“Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

This is an example of the **GREAT FAITH** Abraham had! He knew, even when he sacrificed Isaac that he WOULD return with him. God had promised to make him the father of many nations and that would have to come through Isaac. **Abraham is such a great example for us in how we should trust our God!**

6So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife.

Fire was not an easy thing to come by or to make. Once you had a fire made, you kept a fire going and took fire with you when you traveled.

As the two of them walked on together, 7Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?”

Even though Abraham preceded the Age of the Law, Isaac was accustomed to seeing sheep being sacrificed. Animal sacrifice can be traced back as far as Abel, Adam and Eve’s second son. He brought a gift to God of animal parts. Then God sacrificed animals to clothe Adam and Eve after they had fallen.

8“God **will provide** a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

9When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!”

12“Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

Isaac had to have acquiesced to what was going on. Obviously, a man who was well over one hundred years old would have been no match for a young man, probably in his twenties!

I believe Isaac learned his faith from his father and he trusted in God just as much as Abraham did!

Abraham was in the middle of the downswing with the knife when the Angel of the Lord shouted for him to stop. In his heart, Abraham had already plunged the knife into Isaac’s heart. He was willing to do whatever it was the Lord wanted him to do!

Abraham may have thought that God would raise Isaac from the dead. He may have believed that God would stop him just as He did. We can get into trouble when we try to decide how WE THINK God will and should answer our prayers. We always need to pray according to His will and EXPECT God to answer our prayers but realize that He will probably always answer them in a way that is even better than what we expected.

**Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)**

20Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

**Hebrews 11:17-19 (NLT)**

17It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, 18even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11:17-19#fen-NLT-30151a)] 19Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

Abraham told Isaac that **God would provide a sheep** for the sacrifice and we see that God did exactly that in the next verse.

In verse 12, God said, “Now I know.”

God confirmed what He thought about Abraham ([Gen. 18:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+18%3A19)).

**Genesis 18:19 (KJV)**   
19  For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Testing Abraham enabled God to say, "Now I know." God limits His own attributes to conform to His plan for free moral agents. This makes Him no less omniscient, but enables Him to respect the will of man. Thus, God does not plan man's choices or acts, but holds him responsible for them. Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

13Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

This is an example of the doctrine of substitution. As the ram was substituted for Isaac, so Christ became a substitute for all men, dying for them that they might go free from eternal death in hell -- if they accept Him as their sacrifice (Isa. 53; Mt. 20:28; Jn. 6:51; 10:11-18; 11:50-52; 15:13; Rom. 4:25; 5:6-8; 14:15; 1Cor. 15:3; 2Cor. 5:14-21; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; Heb. 2:9-18; 5:9; 9:15-28; 10:10; 1Pet. 2:21-24; 3:18; 4:1). The Old Testament animal sacrifices portrayed Christ paying the sin penalty in our stead. That the experience of Abraham with Isaac and the ram prefigured the work of Christ is clear from [Heb. 11:17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A17-19). Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

**Hebrews 11:17-19 (GW)**   
17When God tested Abraham, faith led him to offer his son Isaac. Abraham, the one who received the promises from God, was willing to offer his only son as a sacrifice. 18God had said to him, “Through Isaac your descendants will carry on your name.” 19Abraham believed that God could bring Isaac back from the dead. Abraham did receive Isaac back from the dead in a figurative sense.

How many of you have heard the song, “Jehovah Jireh?” We still serve our Father who is Jehovah Jireh. Any time you are in need, look to your Father who WILL provide generously!

15Then the **angel of the Lord** called again to Abraham from heaven. 16“This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

19Then they returned to the servants and traveled back to Beersheba, where Abraham continued to live.

Look at how the Lord said He would bless Abraham

1. I will bless you (Gen. 22:17).

2. I will multiply you as the stars.

Spiritual descendants like the Church

3. I will multiply you as the sand.

Physical descendants like the Jews and Arabs

4. Your seed shall be victorious.

How many countries have tried to defeat modern day Israel? They will NOT succeed. The same goes for you and for me. We ARE the seed of Abraham! We SHALL be victorious! “Shall” is the strongest word in the English language!

5. All nations will be blessed through your seed (Gen. 22:18).

This is certainly a promise that is being fulfilled through Jesus but also, YOU are to be a blessing to the whole earth because you ARE the seed of Abraham! Glory to God!

When you feel like you are about to be defeated in life claim your position in life! Claim that you are the seed of Abraham and that you SHALL be a blessing to the whole earth!

Finally Sarah dies and Abraham buys a piece of land and a tomb and buries her.

Genesis 23:17-20

17So Abraham bought the plot of land belonging to Ephron at Machpelah, near Mamre. This included the field itself, the cave that was in it, and all the surrounding trees. 18It was transferred to Abraham as his permanent possession in the presence of the Hittite elders at the city gate. 19Then Abraham buried his wife, Sarah, there in Canaan, in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre (also called Hebron). 20So the field and the cave were transferred from the Hittites to Abraham for use as a permanent burial place.

**Genesis 24 (NLT)**

**A Wife for Isaac**

24 Abraham was now a very old man, and **the Lord had blessed him in every way.**

**I want every one of us to be able to honestly say this toward the ends of our lives! To do so, you need to learn to live in VICTORY now!**

2One day Abraham said to his oldest servant, the man in charge of his household, “Take an oath by putting your hand under my thigh. 3Swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. 4Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.”

Why did the Abraham tell the man to put his hand under his thigh?

According to ancient Jewish expositors, putting the hand on the thigh (representing the organs of generation) was most sacred. According to Indian custom, the act was a sign of subjection (cp. Gen. 47:29-31). God touched Jacob's thigh when He changed his name as a sign of blessing (Gen. 32:24-32; cp. Gen. 14:22; 47:29-31).   
Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

5The servant asked, “But what if I can’t find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?”

6“No!” Abraham responded. “Be careful never to take my son there.

Why was Abraham so adamant about Isaac not marrying a Canaanite?

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all had a horror of intermarriage with Canaanites (Gen. 24:3; 27:46; 28:1-9; 34:1-31). The reason was the giant races the devil was using to do away with pure Adamite stock so that the Seed of the woman could not come into the world.  
Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

7For the Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my descendants. **He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a wife there for my son.** 8If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath of mine. But under no circumstances are you to take my son there.”

9So the servant took an oath by putting his hand under the thigh of his master, Abraham. He swore to follow Abraham’s instructions.