

Abraham Offers His Son Isaac

Key Verse: *“And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”*
—**Genesis 22:14,**
New King James Version

Selected Scripture:
Genesis 22:1-18

OUR KEY VERSE IS TAKEN

from one of the most powerful and often discussed events recorded in the Bible. One can imagine the emotional trauma Abraham and Isaac endured—Abraham on account of God’s command to offer Isaac as a burnt offering, and Isaac’s experience that his father was going to slay him. Many expositions have been written to probe this signal moment in Bible history. Yet the bitter story yielded precious fruitage—confirmation of

the Abrahamic Promise. “Because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”—Gen. 22:16-18, *NKJV*

Abraham’s trust in God was supreme. Perhaps he suspected that God would not have him follow through with this demonstration of faith. This is implied in his

message to the men who accompanied him. Seeing the place to which God led him to offer up Isaac, “Abraham said to his young men, Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.” (Gen. 22:5, *NKJV*) Note that he said “we,” plural, “will come back to you.”

As father and son ascended to the place of sacrifice, “Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.’ So the two of them went together.”—Gen. 22:7,8, *NKJV*

Abraham bound Isaac and was in the motion to slay him with the knife when the Lord’s angel stayed his hand. There, close by, trapped by thorns in a thicket, was a ram provided through God’s providence. The offering of a ram in Israel’s Tabernacle signified the Lord’s acceptance of the previously sacrificed lamb or bullock. This suggests that God counted the sacrifice of Isaac as completed and that the ram denoted his acceptance of it.—vss. 9-13

Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb.” The Lord will provide and, in fact, already has provided. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”—John 3:16,17, *NKJV*

Indeed, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, opening the life-gate for the restoration of the human family. (John 1:29) This is the epitome of the Gospel message, as Apostle Paul noted in the Epistle to the Galatians. “The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall be blessed.”—Gal. 3:8, *NKJV* ■