

The Offering of Isaac

Genesis 22

Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old.¹

After these things, God tested Abraham and said to him, “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.”

Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. He cut the wood for the burnt offering and went. On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He took in his hand the fire² and the knife.

Isaac said to his father, Abraham, “My father! Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

Abraham answered, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and 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.” Abraham lifted up his eyes, behind him was a ram³, caught in a thicket⁴ by his horns. He offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this, I will surely bless you and multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore, because you have obeyed Me.”

Explanatory Notes

¹On the eighth day, as God commanded. ²Live coals in a vessel. ³Male sheep. ⁴Bushes.



“Now I know that you fear God.”

For Reflection

1. What did Abraham show about his love for God in his willingness to sacrifice his son?
2. Which other Father willingly allowed His Son to give His life as a sacrifice? What does this sacrifice mean to you?
3. Tell what it means to fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Words to Remember

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? *Romans 8:32*