

# GENESIS 22 vs 1

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Here, we have the famous story of Abraham offering up his son Isaac; or that is, his offering to offer him, which is justly looked upon as one of the wonders of the church. Here is the strange command which God gave Abraham; and Abraham's strange obedience to this command; and the strange issue of this trial – Matthew Henry.

What was on trial? to prove Abraham's faith: did he or did he not... have any other precious thing standing between, standing in front of, standing before his God.

<sup>1</sup> **And it happened after these things, that God / Elohim, the Ones who created the heaven and the earth, after the birth of Isaac** whose name means **laughter**; and we can well imagine there was much joy and rejoicing in Abraham's camp... after Sarah gave birth;

**after these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, Abraham.**

**And he said, Behold, here I am /** Abraham even at the age of 100, he still had his ears attuned to God; he was ready at a moment's notice.

<sup>2</sup> **And He said, Now take your son, your only son Isaac,**  
**whom you love,**

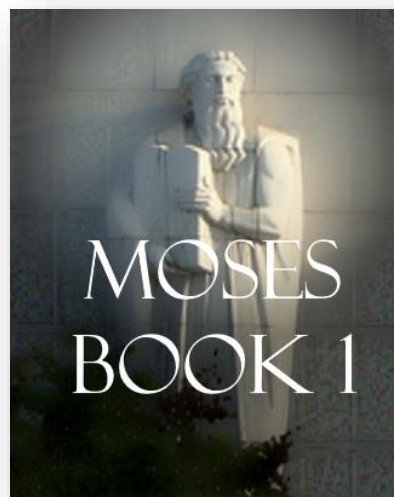
**and go to the land of Moriah /** WOW! Just imagine that; he and his son were going on a journey, which would require a company of servants taking care of all the provisions necessary; as well as a modest security detail for the entire entourage; and I bet Abraham was thrilled by all this good news; yet every circumstance mentioned by God... was only calculated to a deeper stab to the parental heart;

**and offer him there for a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will show you /** for a freewill offering, always offered to God with joyfulness and gladness of heart... and don't you sort of wonder... what was going on in old Abraham's mind during that night? When we meet him in eternity, will it be something to ask him? Probably not; it was necessary here, making him ready for there; and we read:

<sup>3</sup> **And Abraham rose up early in the morning /** Abraham said to his austere crew, let's get going: **and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and chopped the wood for the burnt offering /** always given with joyfulness and gladness of heart,

**and rose up, and went to the place where God told him.**

<sup>4</sup> **Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off /** and isn't this quite poignant, as the Lord was in the grave 3 days and 3 nights, so the father of faith, the only one in the OT who is called: **a friend of God**; Abraham wasn't mindlessly, half-heartedly singing: I am a friend of God;



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but God was singing **Abraham is My friend**; and God gave Abraham this 3-day journey; this very harsh assignment... given to His friend: to test and assay... and prove what was truly in His friend's heart; to show Abraham – and all the rest of us what he was really made of. I have a feeling, if we want to brag about being a friend of God, then God just might allow each who do an individual experience that will test us, and prove what we are really made of... and if we are still enthusiastically singing His song.

**<sup>5</sup> And Abraham said to his young men, Abide here with the ass;**

**and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you** / notice Abraham did not stumble, he expected they both would go and worship and return; he had walked with God for many years, and knew God was able to raise the dead – Abraham came from Ur; he knew what ancient Job of Ur knew: *though He slay me, I will trust him*; he also knew: *as for me, I know my Redeemer lives, and at last will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet in my flesh, I will see God; whom I myself will behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another* – **Job 13, 19.**

**<sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they both went together.**

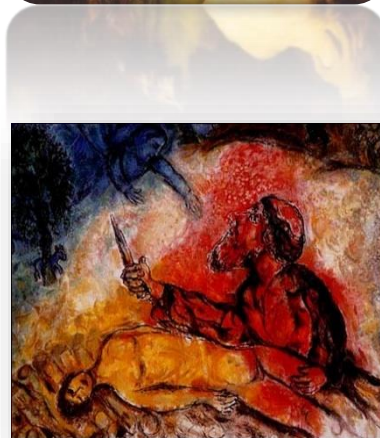
**<sup>7</sup> And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here I am, my son.**

**And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?** / notice we have no idea how old Isaac was; it is assumed he was a very young child, but he might have been 33 years old.

**<sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they both went together.**

**<sup>9</sup> And they came to the place that God told him; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order,**

**and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood** / the father of faith -- for the whole world... he was called to this unique task, and there isn't another father of faith. Abraham lived during the time of animal offerings that could never take away my sin or yours. Thankfully we live in the time when no more offerings for sin are ever needed again.



So God will not give anybody this kind of test, because it would violate what Jesus the Messiah already finished, when He substituted His life for the rest of us – in all the world.

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**10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand** / and was there a pause? Was this old man's hand shaking? Was his heart violently pounding? And perhaps a tear or two falling? This man of faith; this friend of God wasn't carelessly in a hurry,

**and took the knife to slay his son** / who can imagine? Certainly, Isaac also had to submit to what his father was telling him; and likely assuring him of the faithfulness of God. Yet we can well imagine... Abraham was **not** mindlessly moving ahead of the Lord; he wasn't getting ahead of God; Abraham, like all the prophets of old, he was listening, he was paying attention; he was waiting on the Lord: His will be done.

**11 And the angel of the LORD called to him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham:**

**and he said,**

**Here I am** / shouting... as he was probably nearing a heart-attack.

**12 And He said, Do not put your hand against the lad, nor 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 a ram caught in a thicket by its horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it for a burnt offering instead of his son** / most likely accompanied with tears and shouts of gladness and joyfulness of heart.



**14 And Abraham called the name of that place YHWH-Jireh** / translated: **The Lord -- Provides:** as it is said to this day, in the mount of the LORD it will be seen.

**15 And the angel of the LORD called out to Abraham a second time from heaven,**

**16 and said, By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD: because you did this and did **not** withhold your son, your only son,**

**17 so in blessing, I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed... as the stars of the heaven and as the sand on the seashore** / only 3000 stars can be viewed with the naked eye, so to clarify its meaning, this incalculable number has been laughed at by all the experts;

**and your seed will possess the gates of his enemies** / mostly fulfilled by **Ephraim** and **Manasseh**;

**18 And in your Seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed** / God will have the last **laugh**;

**because you amended My voice** / this verse Paul, by the Spirit of God is inspired to move into the NT church. **Check out: Galatians 3:16.**

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Clearly, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of God will make this happen; in Him it will be fulfilled. To the religious leaders Jesus said, Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My Day, and he saw it – John 8... as this promise began to be fulfilled.

Anticipating some of Abraham's Future Heirs,

**<sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned to his young men / with great joy, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.**

**<sup>20</sup> And it happened after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying,**

**Behold, Milcah, she also bore children to your brother Nahor;**

**<sup>21</sup> Uz his firstborn, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram,**

**<sup>22</sup> And Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel / Abraham's nephew.**

**<sup>23</sup> And Bethuel begat Rebekah / later to become Isaac's wife:**

**these eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.**

**<sup>24</sup> And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, and Gaham, and Tahash, and Maacah.**

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The two pictures on the previous page: Abraham offering Isaac are by Rembrandt, the Dutch Reformation artist of the 1634; one version of this event hung in the entry to the church in Los Angeles, California where Dr. Gene Scott taught for years and we attended; and Chagall the French artist was painted in 1966.

## Every Praise

O Come Let Us Adore Him

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise: 

JESUS it is YOU