

## Genesis 22

Verses 1-2

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

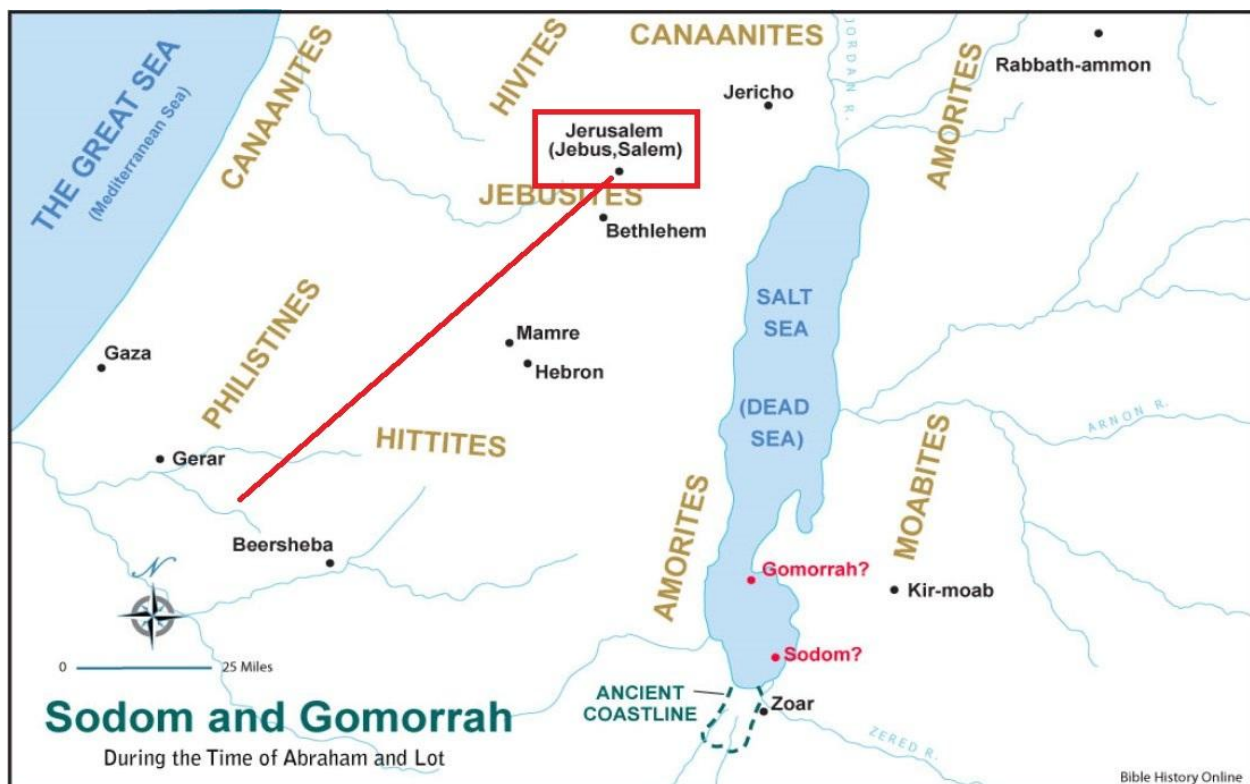
In the last chapter Abraham left Beersheba and went to his home in the land of the Philistines (the exact location is not known) and stayed there for a long time.

See Genesis 21:34

<sup>33</sup> Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. <sup>34</sup> And Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines for many days.

When God tested Abraham he sent him to Mount Moriah which later became the location of Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem.

See Maps 2205



Mount Moriah includes the temple mount area where Solomon built the Temple and the city of David was below (south) of the peak of Mount Moriah.

See pic 2206



The temple mount is now home to the Dome of the Rock. Muslims took control of Jerusalem in 637 AD and finished the dome in 692 AD. It gets its name from the fact that it was built over the peak (the dome) of Mount Moriah.

When God told Abraham to sacrifice his “only” son He was referring to Isaac the only son of Abraham and Sarah. This was a monumental test and it took a tremendous amount of faith to do this.

Verses 3 - 4

**<sup>3</sup> So Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.**

Abraham did not delay in doing God’s will but got up early in the morning to begin the journey. The two young men were probably servants that were needed as helpers for this round trip that would take about a week.

Abraham had the required faith it would take to do as God had asked but the 3 day journey to the mountain must have been a time of solemn reflection and a lot of anguish. God was asking him to sacrifice his only son, a son that he had waited many years to have, and a son that had come about thru a miracle of God.

Verses 5-6

**<sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.**

When Abraham said “we will return to you” it was a matter of faith on his part.

See Hebrews 11:17-20

**<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and the one who had received the promises was offering up his only son; <sup>18</sup> *it was he* to whom it was said, “Through Isaac your descendants shall be named.” <sup>19</sup> He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.**

At the time of this event Isaac was 20 years old.

See chart 2210



Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
11	Terah	Terah dies	205	1921
12	Abraham	Leaves Haran	75	1921
12	Abraham	She is my sister (1st time)	75	1921
13-14		Abraham rescues Lot		
16	Abraham	Ismael born	86	1910
17	Abraham	Circumcision	99	1897
18-19	Lot	Sodom and Gomorrah	99	1897
20	Abraham	She is my sister (2nd time)	99	1897
21	Abraham	Isaac born	100	1896
22	Abraham	Abraham Tested	120	1876
23	Sarah	Sarah dies	127	1859
24	Isaac	Marries Rebekah	40	1856
25	Isaac	Esau and Jacob born	60	1836
25	Abraham	Abraham dies	175	1821

Verses 7-8

<sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. <sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

Isaac asked. “**Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**”

Abraham said, “**God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering.**”

Even though Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead, it would still require him to kill his son with the knife for that to happen. But here Abraham says, “God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering”. Abraham will shortly lay his son on the wood and take the knife to kill him. So even though this statement turned out to be true, Abraham was not being honest with his son when he said it.

<sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

It seems that Isaac was a willing sacrifice because normally a 20 year old would not let his father bind him and lay him on an Altar.

Christ went through a similar experience in his sacrifice.

1. Christ was bound and brought before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate
2. Jesus was also laid upon the wood at Calvary
3. Jesus was a willing sacrifice.

Verses 11-12

<sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

<sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Repeating his name was a dramatic way of getting his attention.

See Genesis 46:2

<sup>2</sup> And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.”

See Exodus 3:4

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

See 1 Samuel 3:10

<sup>10</sup> Then the Lord came and stood, and called as at *the* other times: “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.”

**<sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”**

In this case Abraham passed the test with flying colors. God was not surprised about the outcome because He knows all, but there is no doubt that Abraham had grown in his faith. This was not the same man who had used his wife as a human shield. Spiritual growth is not linear but rather it comes in spurts after years of struggling.

Verses 13-14

**<sup>13</sup> Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son. <sup>14</sup> And Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”**

A ram is a male lamb, and a ewe is a female lamb. Both ewes and rams may and may not have horns but this one did.

Yahweh -jireh means “The Lord will provide”

Verses 15-19

**<sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup> and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” <sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived in Beersheba.**

**<sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup> and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,**

We don't know why Christ was called “the angel of the Lord” but this phrase can be found in numerous places in the Old and New Testaments.

<sup>17</sup> indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

The current estimate for the number of stars in the universe is  $10^{24}$ . That number is 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (a one followed by 24 zeros). The number of grains of sand on the earth is estimated at  $10^{19}$ .

The Lord was not giving an actual number but simply saying that it would be a very large number of descendants.

<sup>18</sup> And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

This applies specifically to Christ

See Galatians 3:16

<sup>16</sup> Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *one would in referring to many, but rather as in referring to one*, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

We know this covenant was made in 1876 BC because of what Paul says in his letter to the Galatians.

See Galatians 3:16 - 18

<sup>16</sup> Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *one would in referring to many, but rather as in referring to one*, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ. <sup>17</sup> What I am saying is this: the Law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

Paul is referring to the covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants in this chapter. Working backwards from the giving of the law in 1446 BC, add 430 years. This comes out to 1876 BC.

By knowing this date we know that Abraham was 120 years old and Isaac was 20.

See chart 2210 above.

<sup>19</sup> **So Abraham returned to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived in Beersheba.**

Abraham must have decided to move because in the last verse of the previous chapter he was living somewhere in Philistia. Then he went to Moriah to sacrifice Isaac but when he returns he went to Beersheba and made it his home.

Some commentators have proposed that Beersheba was in Philistia so he returned to his home. However, that doesn't seem to fit with what was said in the previous chapter.

See Genesis 21:32

<sup>32</sup> **So they made a covenant at Beersheba; and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, got up and returned to the land of the Philistines.**

How could Abimelech and Phicol return to the land of the Philistines if Beersheba was in Philistia?

Many feel that Isaac was a type of Christ and they list the following comparisons.

1. The birth of Isaac was supernatural, as was Christ's.
2. Both were sons of "promise."
3. Both were called "the only begotten son."
4. Both were laid "upon the wood."
5. Both were "offered" by their fathers.
6. Both "sacrifices" occurred on the same hill.
7. Both were "dead" three days and nights, Christ literally, Isaac in a figurative way.

Verses 20-24

<sup>20</sup> **Now it came about after these things, that Abraham was told, saying, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: <sup>21</sup> Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel (the father of Aram), <sup>22</sup> Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel"—<sup>23</sup> and it was Bethuel who fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. <sup>24</sup> His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also gave birth to Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.**



Abraham learned of his brother Nahor's 12 children.

See pic 2215

