

Abraham and Isaac – A type

The Skeptic's Annotated Bible

Ridicules Gn.22

It contradicts other passages

It promotes violence

It says that only an evil God would ask such a thing

Only a bad father would do it

Gn.12:4

Age 75: Abraham enters Canaan

At 100 he received his long-awaited son

God blessed him with peaceful prosperity

At this high point, Abraham faces the greatest test of his life

Two comparable passages –

1. Mt.15, Syro-Phoenician woman

2. Gn.22, Abraham's orders to slay Isaac

I. Abraham and Isaac

Gn.22:1, God tested Abraham

- God did not entice Abraham to sin (Ja.1:13)
- The act contradicted . . .
 1. Common sense
 2. Family affection
 3. Lifelong ambition. Gn.12-21

Three day journey because Sarah would have stopped it?

Gn.22:2, God orders Abraham to offer Isaac as burnt offering

- Isaac is Abraham's child of promise
- First mention of 'love' in Bible
 1. No hope for more children
 2. Test was especially hard: seemed to contradict God's previous promise, Gn.21:12
- Josh.24:2, Abraham's family served pagan gods. Cf. Rachel, Gn.31:19. Nuzi
- God had not revealed much about Himself at this stage of OT narrative...

Gn.22:3-4, highlight Abraham's. . .

- Prolonged test
- Sustained obedience
 - 1: He rose early, 3
 - 2: Third day, 4
 - Easier if Abraham was the one to die
 - He trusts God even when he does not understand – culmination of life of trust
 - Gn.21, Ishmael
 - 3: Saw the place, 4

Gn.22

5: First occurrence of 'worship'

- We will come back...
- What to do when God opposes God?
- Abraham trusted God / His promise so much that he would always obey

6: Isaac carries wood for his own sacrifice [Jn.19:17]

- Fire and knife are in father's hands

Gn.22

7-8: Where is the lamb?

9: Then they came to the place

- He bound Isaac. [25:20]
- Isaac submits...

Gn.22

10-14: Why didn't God devise another way to test Abraham? . . .

- Gn.22 is a type – a foreshadow – a picture of another sacrifice

I. Abraham and Isaac

II. Crucifixion of Christ
(as seen in Gn.22)

Gn.22

- 1: God did not ask Abraham to do something that He Himself would not do
 - God did it without a voice to stop it – it was His plan
- 2: Uses terms that God uses of His Son
 - Only son – just as Jesus is only begotten, Jn.1:18
 - Beloved – Mt.3:17
- 2: Moriah. 2 Chr.3:1 [Jehovah provides]
 - Is it a coincidence that God sent Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in very place where He would send His Son?

Gn.22

3: Split wood

6: Laid wood on Isaac to carry

- Jesus carried His cross... Jn.19:17, 'And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the Place* of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha'

Gn.22

4: Third day

- 1 Co.15:4, He rose again the third day...
- No OT prophecy specifically mentions His resurrection on third day unless it is found here in picture of Isaac
- Isaac is 'reckoned dead' by Abraham as soon as God gave the command...
- Isaac is returned to his father ('risen') three days later

Gn.22

6,8: Both went together

- Jesus and His Father went together...
- Jesus and His Father suffered together

7: Where is the lamb?

- Jn.1:29
- God actually did what He did not require Abraham to do – gave His own, beloved Son
- The picture cannot match the reality

Gn.22

12: When God asked Abraham for ultimate demonstration of love and commitment, He asked for Abraham's son

- Ro.8:32
- When Father wanted to demonstrate the ultimate love for us . . . He gave us His Son – [Gn.22:12]

Gn.22

13: What Isaac's sacrifice lacked to make it a perfect type – his actual death for another [a ram took his place] . . . Ro.8:32

14: The meaning of the place: *The Lord Will Provide*

- Not 'trial hill,' 'agony hill,' or 'obedience hill' . . . but **Provision Hill** – God would provide the ultimate sacrifice here
- Abraham trusted God to work out the apparent contradiction between His promise and His command...

Gn.22

9: Isaac knew what was happening . . . and submitted to his father's will

- So did Jesus – Mt.26:39, He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; not as I will, but as You will.
- Ro.8:32, He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Isaac	Comparison	Jesus
Gn.22:18	Son/Seed of promise	Gal.3:16
Gn.18:9-14	Miraculous birth	M.1:18-23
Gn.17:19	Named before birth	Mt.1:21
Gn.22:2	Beloved / Only Son	Jn.3:16
Gn.22:9	Willing submission	Jn.10:17-19
Gn.22:6	Carried wood	Jn.19:17
Gn.22:13	Substitute	2 Co.5:21
Gn.22:12	Returned to Father	Ph.2:5-11