

# ON A HILL FAR AWAY

Different: Conclusion

November 19, 2023

Baptism Sunday!

Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called.

"Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

<sup>2</sup> **"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."**

<sup>3</sup> The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> **On the third day** of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. **WE will worship there, and then WE will come right back.**"

<sup>6</sup> So **Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders**, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but **where is the sheep for the burnt offering?**"

<sup>8</sup> **"God will provide** a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. <sup>11</sup> At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

<sup>12</sup> "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. **You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.**"

<sup>13</sup> Then Abraham looked up and saw **a ram caught by its horns in a thicket**. So he took the ram and **sacrificed it** as a burnt offering **in place of his son**. <sup>14</sup> Abraham named the place **Yahweh-Yireh** (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

<sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the LORD called again to Abraham from heaven. <sup>16</sup> "This is what the LORD says: **BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that** <sup>17</sup> **I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies.** <sup>18</sup> And **through your descendants** all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all **because you have obeyed me.**"

<sup>19</sup> Then they returned to the servants and traveled back to Beersheba, where Abraham continued to live.

(Genesis 22:1–19, NLT)

**Why did God test Abraham this way?**

1. To **PERFECT** his faith.

*“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham...” (Genesis 22:1, KJV)*

*“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;” (James 1:13, NIV)*

*“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48, NIV)*

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2a, NIV84)*

*“These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (1 Peter 1:7, NLT)*

*“It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.” (Hebrews 11:17–19, NLT)*

2. To **POINT HIS PEOPLE** to His plan.

*“Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” Jesus answered, “If I want glory for myself, it doesn’t count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, ‘He is our God,’ but you don’t even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. Your father **Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.**” The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, **I AM!**”” (John 8:53–58, NLT)*

*“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:21, NLT)*

***“WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET UP AND BE BAPTIZED.  
Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.”***  
(Acts 22:16, NLT)

**ACTION STEP**

***Get baptized today!***