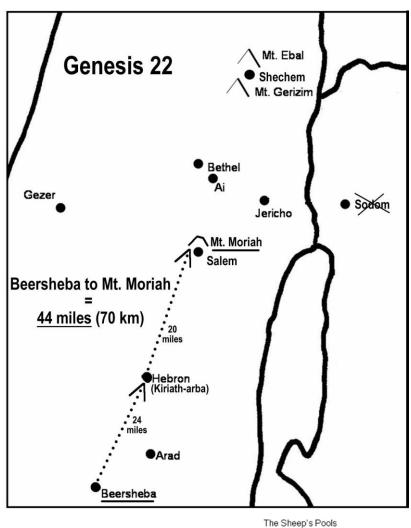
Genesis 22:1-24

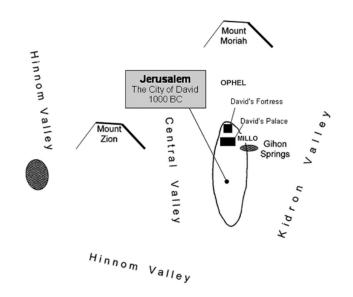
Genesis 22:1 – After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."



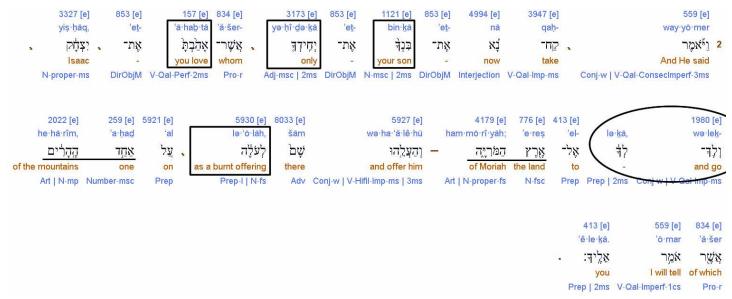
- 1. This event is called in Hebrew the "Binding of Isaac" or "Akedat Yitzchak"
- 2. "tested" is "NASAH" meaning "to test", "to try", "to prove", "to tempt"
 - Nasah is used in the Hebrew in the context of examining or proving the quality, faith, or character.
 - b. Nasah can imply a trial or temptation used to reveal a weakness and refine the subject.
 - c. Nasah is used to identify God's testing His people to strengthen their faith and obedience.
- 3. From the beginning this was a TEST. This was never to be a human sacrifice.
- 4. Child sacrifice has been universal throughout the ages.
 - a. Central America had child sacrifice in 1300-1500's yet.
 - There is evidence of child sacrifice from the Greeks, Vikings, Maya, Aztecs, Incas, Carthaginians, Phoenicians, China, Africa from the ancient world. And, it continues today.
 - Abraham may have understood this to be a common, acceptable practice.
 - d. Eventually the Torah forbid the practice
 - e. Hebrews were the only ancient culture to forbid the practice. Why?
 - i. Was it superior morality of the Hebrew people?
 - ii. Was it because YHWH forbid it in the Law?

- 22:2 He said, "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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."
 - At the start of the next chapter (Gen. 23:1-3) Sarah was living in Hebron (or, Kiriath-arba) when she was 127 and Isaac was 37. At this time Abraham was still living in Beersheba (age 137). So, when Sarah died she was not living in Beersheba with Abraham, but was living 24 miles away (Gen. 22:19).
 - In 2000 BC Jerusalem and Mount <u>Moriah</u> were the center of worship of the God Most High (El-Elyon), since this was the residence of his priest- king Melchizedek and the place to which God had led Abraham for worship.
 - 3. This same place, Mount Moriah, was identified in 2 Chronicles 3:1 as the plot of ground that David purchased with his own money from Araunah the Jebusite. It was also identified as the place Solomon would build the temple.





The city David took from the Jebusites in 1005 BC was about 10 acres in size with a population of about 2,000.



- 4. God doesn't say "take Isaac", but instead God uses descriptors:
 - a. "your son"
 - b. "only son"
 - c. The son "you love"
- 5. "Go" or 'lech-lecha, are also God's first words to Abram in Genesis 12:1:
 - a. 12:1 "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."
 - b. 22:2 "Go to the land of Moriah"



- 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.
 - 1. The words from God came at night, and Abraham rose early the very next morning to obey.
 - 2. Why did Abram leave early?
 - a. He was eager to obey?
 - b. He had to leave early to get there?
 - c. He could not sleep after the instructions?
 - d. He wanted to leave before Sarah woke up?
 - e. He didn't want to waste day light?

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22:4 – On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

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22:5 – Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."



- 1. "We" will return? Why did he say that?
 - a. To deceive Isaac?
 - b. To prevent Isaac from resisting?
 - c. He knew it was just a test?
 - d. He expected a resurrection?

22:6 – And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.



- 1. A clue to Isaac's age is indicated by the fact Isaac is able to carry the load of fire wood.
- 2. "Knife" is ma'achelet which literally means "feeder since it is a slaughtering knife used to fee people.
- 3. "the fire" could have been a burning torch or a flint stone (flint kit) to start the fire.
- 22:7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"
- 22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.
- 22:9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
- 22:10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.
- 22:11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 22:12 He 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."
- 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.
- 22:14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."
- 22:15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven
- 22:16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,
- 22:17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,
- 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."
- 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

- 22:20 Now after these things it was told to Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:
- 22:21 Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,
- 22:22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."
- 22:23 (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.
- 22:24 Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.