

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Cross  
Lesson 8 The Offering of Isaac

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In Genesis 22, we have a story that beautifully pictures the willingness of our heavenly Father to sacrifice His only begotten Son, as well as that Son's (Jesus Christ) willingness to be sacrificed. The story in this chapter is about a man named Abraham (a type or picture of God) who loves the Lord enough to obey whatever He commands. The command given here is that he must sacrifice (kill) his only son (a type or picture of Christ). In his desire to please the Lord, Abraham is obedient, as is his son, Isaac. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son, just as God was willing to sacrifice His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Isaac was willing to be the sacrifice, just as Jesus Christ was willing to be the sacrifice. Let's explore this wondrous story.

We will start this lesson in Genesis 22:14 *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.* The Bible says Hebrews 11:17-19 *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.* The offering of Isaac, along with the death and resurrection of Isaac, is a picture that takes us from this mountain in Genesis 22 all the way to a mountain called Calvary.

Genesis 22:1 *And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.* (this word "tempt" is defined in Hebrews 11 as tried. The definition in both places is that Abraham is put to a test.) Genesis 22:2-4 *And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.* What a beautiful picture for us to see the Lord Jesus Christ being offered as a sacrifice. Jesus Christ was the offering. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 53 that it pleased the Lord (God the Father) to bruise Him (God the Son) when thou (God the Father) should make his soul (God the Son) an offering for sin. He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. The scripture is so perfectly in union with all the other pictures and foreshadows of Jesus Christ throughout the Bible. The scriptures are

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precise when explaining the details of each picture so that no one who reads and studies could ever find a mistake or contradiction.

There are no contradictions in the scriptures. The Jews did not kill Christ, nor did the Roman soldiers. The Lord, He agreed to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice to satisfy the demands of God's Law and justice. God the Father agreed to offer His son in the sacrifice so that sinners might have a Savior. In Genesis 22 we see Abraham (a type of God the Father) and Isaac the son (a type of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ) agreeing together to go to a mountain and offer a sacrifice.

This is a picture of Jesus dying on the cross as recorded in the Gospels thousands of years later. We read in Isaiah 53 and Psalms 22 details about the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ many years before He was even born in Bethlehem's manger. We can read in Zechariah the details of His betrayal five hundred years before Jesus even selected Judas Iscariot to be one of His disciples. The Bible has One author, One theme, and One way. John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* Psalms 16:10 *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was agreed upon by both the Father and the Son, as shown here in the story of Genesis 22. What an amazing book!

Romans 5:7-8 *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* It was the plan and purpose of God throughout the centuries that Jesus Christ would go to the cross and die for our sins. There has been many a man or woman who had to step in front of a moving car to save the life of a child, or a soldier who jumped on a grenade to save the life of his buddies; but the difference is that God sent His Son to die for sinners - sinners who curse Him, sinners who deny Him daily. He came into this world to die for sinners' sins.

Back to Genesis 22:4-5 *Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.*

Notice two things in the verses above the third day and come again. We will come back to the explanation of these shortly.

The human race began in the Garden of Eden, where a sinless man and woman were in a perfect garden on a perfect earth, given to them by God; and everything in their lives was very good. In Genesis four, we have the story of Cain and Abel. Abel's offering to God was an acceptable sacrifice. Then in Genesis chapter six, seven, and eight, we read about Noah and the flood, God

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spared the man Noah with his family in the ark. Then there was a sacrifice and offerings, but there was something missing. All the way through hundreds of years of human history, we read of God blessing man, preserving man, saving men, and receiving sacrifices at their hand. It is not until Genesis 22:5, that the word worship appears in your Bible. What an unusual thing that the first mention in scripture of worship, is in a story that pictures the son dying at the hand of the Father to offer an acceptable sacrifice.

Genesis 22:4-5 *Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.* On that third day, the father lifted up his eyes. We know from scripture that during the crucifixion of Jesus, the sun was dark. The son dies, He goes into hell, then on the third day, the Lord comes up from the dead. A loving father would not want to see his son suffer and die, but if he were to come back alive, surely his excitement would be overwhelming. The story in Luke 15 shows the excitement of a father who thought his son was dead, and yet now he is alive.

We all know that the Lord rose from the dead on the third day. In verse 5 the wording "*and come again to you*" means before the father and the son go up to that mountain top, the father says to the son, "Both of us are coming back down again." Look closely at this story in Genesis 22. Isaac was no toddler; he was more than likely a young man, maybe in his twenties or older. He was well aware of what was about to happen, and if he had not been not fully persuaded in what his father was about to do, he could have taken off running in the opposite direction. God had promised Abraham that his son Isaac would have a son, and that the blessings God gave him would pass to his son and then on to the next son. Isaac was not yet married and Isaac had no son. Abraham knew if Isaac were dead, God's promises couldn't be fulfilled. Abraham believed the promises of God and trusted that if he put his son to death, then God would raise him up again. The Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross at Calvary, not just to dies for our sins, but to die and to rise again.

Genesis 22:7-8 *And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.* Verse eight is a marvelous statement in the Bible, *Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:* The sentence structure of this statement implies that God Himself is the Lamb. Had the scripture said, "God himself will provide a lamb," That would imply that God would provide the lamb for the sacrifice But, Glory to God, the Bible says that *God will provide himself a lamb* There He was, God himself. This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, but prophesied in Genesis 22. - God would provide Himself a lamb. Genesis 22:9-

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12 *And they came to the place which God had told him of; 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. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.* Remember back in Genesis 22:1 when the Bible says that God was going to test Abraham? The writer of the scriptures knew that the day would come when people would say they have faith (James 2:14-26), and yet they would not have works to prove that faith. No one is saved or kept saved by works, but your works should prove to yourself, others, and God that you really do believe what you profess. So, God uses Abraham (and Rahab) as a picture of what the Bible is teaching in James 2.

Genesis 22:13-14 *And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.* In Genesis 22, God does provide a lamb for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son.

The significance of the statement *In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.* is something worth shouting about. Let's take a closer look at that mountain, and what took place there. Isaac is a type and picture of Christ. The ram was a full-grown male lamb. It was caught in the thicket by its horns. Christ wore a crown of thorns at Calvary that was beaten into His brow. The ass mentioned in Genesis 22:3 is a male donkey. If you look at the back of any donkey, you will see a line on their back made up of hair that forms a cross. That old donkey, the beast of burden mentioned there, that is me, that is you. We go through life carrying the burden of sin on our backs. In our story, when they got to the foot of that mountain, the son took the burden off that beast, and he carried it up to the top of that mountain. That mountain pictures Calvary. When they came back down off that mountain, Abraham, Isaac, the knife, and the donkey were all still there. The only thing that was not there was the burden that donkey had been carrying. God does not want you to pay for your sins. He wants to do it for you. He wants you to bring your burden (sins) to the foot of that mountain and let Jesus take it the rest of the way.

Around Easter time the local TV stations will show movies about Jesus and His sacrificial offering on the cross. The only problem with these movies is that they are never accurate. They depict events that either never happened, or they do not show you important things that did happen. One of the great myths perpetuated in these movies is that of Jesus stumbling and falling just about to

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die because He was having so much trouble carrying that cross. Finally, they get Simon to come and help Him because otherwise He would never have made it all the way to Mt. Calvary. None of that is in the Bible. He is God Almighty. He is upholding all things by the word of His power. Instead, what you have is a mock procession. "You say you're a king; we will give you a crown of thorns. You say you are a king; we will put a robe on you and give you a reed for a scepter. Then we will bow down and give you servants to bear your load."

Let us see something that is very remarkable about the Bible and this mountain. Watch the underlined words. Matthew 27:33 *And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,* Mark 15:22 *And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.* It is incredibly significant. John 19:17 *And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:* "Unto", "unto", "into". Genesis 22:3 - Here is a beast of burden carrying wood. The donkey carries the wood all the way unto the foot of that mountain. When they get to the foot of the mountain, God the Father (Abraham) and God the Son (Isaac) take the wood off the beast of burden (Simon the Cyrenian) and put it on the son (Jesus Christ). The son then carries it up to the mountain, into the place of sacrifice. Look how precise the Bible is. God is telling us that every single letter of every single word in our Bible can be trusted and proven.

If you are tired of the burden of sin, guilt, and transgression that you are carrying, bring it to the feet of Jesus. He will take it from you and nail it to His cross. He will take it from you, and you will never see it again. You can be free, given life, and life everlasting, sealed with the Holy Spirit. You will never have to face the judgement of God's wrath, never have to be used as a puppet in the hands of the devil. You will feel like a huge weight has been lifted from you. You will feel clean, and your attitudes will change. Jesus Christ wants to take your sin off of you and put it so far away from you (Psalm 103:12) that it will never, never, never weigh you down again. Thanks be to God.

In the mountain of the Lord, if you look carefully, you can see what God the Father and what God the Son did for you, and for me, Hallelujah!

## Notes

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

( \* ) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. Why did the sun go dark at the crucifixion?
  
2. Who does the donkey picture in this story?
  
3. What is so remarkable about Genesis 22:8? \*
  
4. What is significant about the wording "come again" in Genesis 22:5?
  
5. What is the theme of Genesis 22:5?
  
6. What do you see? - *In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen,*
  
7. Why is the first mention of worship so meaningful to this passage? \*
  
8. What did we learn about the donkey's back?
  
9. What did not come back down from the mountain, after Abraham and Isaac went up?

