

Chapter Five – Abraham is Put to the Test

Some years later, God put Abraham to a test. He heard God calling him, “Abraham, Abraham!”

“Here I am, Lord, at your command,” he replied.

God said to him, “Take your only son, your beloved son Isaac, with you to a mountain which I will show you and there you will offer him to me in burnt-sacrifice.”

The next morning at dawn, Abraham saddled his donkey and told Isaac and two servants to follow him. He cut the wood needed for the burnt-sacrifice and then set out for the place which God had selected. It was two days later when he saw the mountain. When they came to the foot, he said to the servants, “Wait here with the donkey while my son and I go up this mountain to offer a burnt-sacrifice. We will return when we have offered the sacrifice.”

Then he took the wood for the sacrifice and gave it to Isaac to carry while he carried the fire and the knife. As they were walking up, Isaac said to his father, “Father?”

“What is it my son?” he answered.

“I see,” said Isaac, “that we have the fire here and the wood but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?”

“God will give it to us,” he replied.

So they went on together till they reached the place of sacrifice. Here Abraham built an altar of rocks and placed the wood on it. Then he bound Isaac and laid him on the altar over the pile of wood; he took the knife to slay his son as he had been told, but an angel’s voice was heard, “Abraham, Abraham, do the boy no harm and set him free. Now God knows that you truly honour him. For his sake, you were ready to give up your only son.” Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught by the horns in a bush. He took it and offered it as burnt sacrifice instead of Isaac. That night, when the stars were shining in the clear sky, God said to him, “I will reward you for what you did this day, when you were ready to give up your only son for my sake. I will bless you more and more; your people will increase till they are as numerous as the stars in the sky or as the sands on the shore of the sea.”

Years later, after Sarah died and was buried in Canaan, Abraham wanted to find a wife for Isaac from his homeland, so he sent his servant back. The servant met a kindhearted and beautiful lady, Rebecca, who served him and his men water. He was certain that she was a suitable wife for Isaac and gave her a gold ring and two gold bracelets as the down payment for the marriage. He also gave a lot of presents to Rebecca’s father and brother Laban. They knew Abraham was a very successful man and was blessed by God. Therefore, they strongly believed that the marriage, too, was blessed by God and they gave her to Isaac.



Abraham offers Isaac

Questions:

1. Why did God test Abraham?
2. How did Abraham pass the test?
3. What promises did God make to Abraham?
4. Abraham was willing to sacrifice everything for God. How do some people nowadays try to follow Abraham's example?
5. Imagine you were Isaac. Write a blog about this incident.
6. Why was Rebecca considered to be a suitable wife for Isaac?