

**GOD TESTS ABRAHAM**

Old Testament Lesson #15

After a while, God tested Abraham. He instructed Abraham to take his son Isaac to a certain mountain in the region of Moriah and sacrifice him as a burnt offering.

Abraham set out early the next morning with Isaac, two servants and wood for the burnt offering.

On the third day of the journey, Abraham saw the destination in the distance. He left the servants with the donkey while he and Isaac continued toward the mountain, carrying wood, fire and the knife.

As they walked, the child, seeing they had the necessary wood and fire, asked his father where the lamb for the burnt offering was. Abraham responded, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

When the two reached the place God had chosen, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son and placed him on top of the wood. He then took the knife and raised it to kill his son. At this moment, the angel called out to Abraham, "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." When Abraham looked up, he saw in the bushes a ram caught by its horns. He took the ram and sacrificed it instead of his son.

The angel called to Abraham a second time and said that because of Abraham's willingness to obey God, offering his only son, God would bless Abraham and make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- The land of Moriah corresponds to the hills upon which Jerusalem was later built. One of its mountains corresponded to the site of the threshing floor of Araunah (a-RAH-nah) the Jebusite (JEB-u-site) (see 1 Chronicles 21:18-25), which later became the site of the temple built by Solomon (see 2 Chronicles 3:1).

**God Tests Abraham**

- I. God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on a certain mountain.
  - A. Abraham took Isaac, servants and wood.
  - B. Isaac asked where they would find the lamb for the offering.
  - C. Abraham said God would provide the lamb.
- II. Abraham built an altar at the chosen place.
  - A. He bound his son and placed him on top of the wood.
  - B. He prepared to kill him with a knife.
  - C. An angel stopped him from killing Isaac because God saw that Abraham intended to withhold nothing from God.
  - D. Abraham saw a ram in the bushes and used it for an offering.
- III. An angel called to Abraham.
  - A. The angel said God would bless Abraham because he had obeyed the LORD.
  - B. God would make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars.

**ANSWER KEY:**

took, prepared, asked, angel, called, lay, hand, anything, fear, withheld, son, only, son, surely, bless, make, descendants, numerous, stars, sky, looked, up, ram, caught, horns, took, sacrificed

