

Does God Want Blind Faith?

Akeidat Yitzchak Reconsidered

Source Sheet by Joel Haber

Genesis 22:1-19

(1) Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test. He said to him, "Abraham," and he answered, "Here I am."

(2) And He said, "Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you."

(3) So early next morning, Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and he set out for the place of which God had told him.

(4) On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place from afar.

(5) Then Abraham said to his servants, "You stay here with the ass. The boy and I will go up there; we will worship and we will return to you."

(6) Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. He himself took the firestone and the knife; and the two walked off together.

(7) Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he answered, "Yes, my son." And he said, "Here are the firestone and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

(8) And Abraham said, "God will see to the sheep for His burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

(9) They arrived at the place of which God had told him. Abraham built an altar there; he laid out the wood; he bound his son Isaac; he laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

(10) And Abraham picked up the knife to slay his son.

בראשית כ"ב:א'-י"ט

(א) ויהי אחר הדברים האלה והא-להים נסה את-אברהם ויאמר אליו אברהם והגני:

(ב) ויאמר קח-נא את-בנך את-יחידך אשר-אהבת את-יצחק ולך-לך אל-ארץ המרגה והעלהו שם לעלה על אחד ההרים אשר אמר אליך:

(ג) וישלחם אברהם בבקר ויחבל את-חמרו ויטח את-ישעי נעריו אתו ואת יצחק בנו ויבקע עצים עלה נקם וילך אל-המקום אשר-אמר-לו הא-להים:

(ד) ביום השלישי וישא אברהם את-עיניו וירא את-המקום מרחק:

(ה) ויאמר אברהם אל-נעריו שבו-לכם פה עם-החמור ואני והנער נלכה עד-כה ונשתתה ונשובה אליכם:

(ו) ויטח אברהם את-עצמי העלה וישם על-יצחק בנו ויטח בידו את-האש ואת-המאכלת וילכו שניהם יחדו:

(ז) ויאמר יצחק אל-אברהם אביו ויאמר אבי ויאמר הגני בני ויאמר הגה האש והעצים ואינה השא לעלה:

(ח) ויאמר אברהם א-להים יראה-לו השא לעלה בני וילכו שניהם יחדו:

(ט) ויבאו אל-המקום אשר אמר-לו הא-להים ויבן שם אברהם את-המזבח ויערף את-העצים ויעקל את-יצחק בנו וישם אתו על-המזבח ממעל לעצים:

(11) Then an angel of the LORD called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am."

(י) וישלח אברהם את־יָדוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלָה לְשֹׁהַט אֶת־בְּנוֹ:

(12) And he said, "Do not raise your hand against the boy, or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your favored one, from Me."

(יא) וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַהּ מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהָם | אֲבִרְהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲגִנִּי:

(13) When Abraham looked up, his eye fell upon a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son.

(יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־תִּשְׁלַח יָדְךָ אֶל־הַנְּעָר וְאֶל־תַּעֲשֵׂ לֹ מְאוּמָה כִּי | עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־יִרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶתָּה וְלֹא חֲשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יְחִידְךָ מִמֶּנִּי:

(14) And Abraham named that site Adonai-yireh, whence the present saying, "On the mount of the LORD there is vision."

(יג) וַיֵּשֶׂא אֲבִרְהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא וְהִנֵּה־אֵיל אֶחָד נֹאֲתָז בְּסֹבֵב בְּמַרְגְּלוֹ וַיִּלֶּךְ אֲבִרְהָם וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֵיל וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ לְעֹלָה תַּחַת בְּנוֹ:

(15) The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

(יד) וַיִּקְרָא אֲבִרְהָם שְׁמֵה־מְקוֹם הַהוּא יְהוָה | יִרְאָה אֲשׁוֹר יֹאמֶר הַיּוֹם בְּתֵר יְהוָה יִרְאָה:

(16) and said, "By Myself I swear, the LORD declares: Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your favored one,

(טו) וַיִּקְרָא מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֶל־אֲבִרְהָם שְׁנִית מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

(17) I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore; and your descendants shall seize the gates of their foes.

(טז) וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־יְהוָה כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא חֲשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יְחִידְךָ:

(18) All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, because you have obeyed My command."

(יז) כִּי־בָרַךְ אֲבִרְכָךָ וְהִרְבָּה אַרְבֵּה אֶת־זַרְעֶךָ כְּכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחֹל אֲשֶׁר עַל־שַׁפְתַּי הַיָּם וַיִּרְשׁ זַרְעֶךָ אֶת שְׁעַר אֲבִיבָיו:

(19) Abraham then returned to his servants, and they departed together for Beer-sheba; and Abraham stayed in Beer-sheba.

(יח) וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְּזַרְעֶךָ כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ לְעֵקֵב אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקִלִּי:

(יט) וַיֵּשֶׁב אֲבִרְהָם אֶל־נַעֲרָיו וַיִּקְמוּ וַיִּלְכוּ יַחְדָּו אֶל־בְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיֵּשֶׁב אֲבִרְהָם בְּבְאֵר שָׁבַע:

