

GENESIS 22 / THE GREATEST RESEARSAL

Abraham lived 25 years in Hebron, then, after Sodom's destruction, he moved South 25 miles to what became known as Beer Sheva, Well of the Seven (Oath.)

The Covenant or oath between Abraham and Avimelech lasted for three generations-Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

(There were 7 generations from Abraham to to the Exodus.)

He remained in Beer Sheva another 26 years with Isaac growing up there.

Verse 1

Abraham said "Heneni." "Here I am."

Verse 2

Only son - the son of promise, whom you love. What does this make you think of/

Take a sheet of paper; draw a line down the middle, top to bottom. On left side write Isaac, on right side MESSIAH,

We'll add comparisons as we read , beginning the begotten son, only son, then beloved son on each side.

Abraham told to take Isaac and they are to ascend a mountain of Moriah.

Moriah -Mor I yah' (Taught by God)

Verse 3

What did Abraham do? He immediately set to obey God. He didn't sit and think about it. It's easy to rationalize how you feel about something or someone. The longer you hesitate the more likely you'll talk yourself out of doing it. Why, God would never ask you to give up something so precious.

Why was Abraham so willing to do this thing, which on the surface sounds very troubling?

God had been working in Abraham's life for years before, with blessings and miracles, showing His faithfulness. Abraham learned he could trust God.

God had made it clear that Abraham would be blessed through Isaac who would have many, many descendants, ans many as sand by the sea.

Therefore, he knew God would either spare Isaac somehow or He would raise him up to live again. (Hebrew 11"17-19)

When Abraham began that journey, to him, Isaac was already "dead." he had given him to God
Matthew 10:37-39

When you lay down all, even family, God will fill you with the most important thing you'll ever receive
GOD.

Abraham loaded his donkey with split wood, took 2 servants and Isaac, who was no child at this time. He was a young man able to carry a big load of wood on his shoulders. The Jews teach that he was between 26 and 37.

I like to think he was 33 years old, as he was a picture of Messiah.

Add the ages to your paper – both were young men.

Verses 4-5

The third day – they were heading back up North to where Jerusalem is today, a two day trip.

3 = Trinity; perfection

Messiah's ministry lasted 3 years; third day He arose.

Add "third day" to your paper.

Afar off - "ra choq" which means 1. remote 2. precious

Abraham said, "Sit here with the donkey and wait while my son and I do a work for the God, and WE will return. Confident of Isaac's return with him.

Verses 6-8

He placed the wood on shoulders of Isaac.

Add "carried wood for his own sacrifice" to paper.

Verse 7-"Henei" Here I am, (2nd time))

"Where is the lamb?" "Beni, Elohim will provide HIMSELF a lamb for the burnt offering. They went up in unity.

Verse 9

The sacrifice of Isaac is called the Akedah', which means "the Binding"

Abraham stacked the wood, bound Isaac and laid him on the altar.

Isaac, at that time, was stronger than Abraham and could have resisted, but instead complied with his father, just as Yeshua did with his Father.

Put "obeyed Father and went willingly" to paper.

Verses 10-11

The Angel of the Lord called to him. "Henei! " Here I am This is the third time-Trinity, perfection Abraham showed God he was "perfectly" obedient in his action.

Verses 12-13

Ram ah yil' means strength, sturdiness word also used for "ram" which is strong.

Theses verses introduce substitutionary atonement which was fulfilled in the death of Messiah when He took our place, just as the ram took the place of Isaac.

Verse 14

Abraham called the place YEHOVAH YIREH THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

So, where was Isaac to be sacrificed? On Mount Moriah, the place, where 2000 years later Messiah would be sacrificed. Moriah, Mor I yah' God is my teacher

As Abraham had looked upon Isaac as dead when God spoke to Him, and he obeyed, he received Isaac "raised back from dead" on the third day., just as Yeshua.

Add this to paper.

The extra pages with temple temple mount info shows Mt. Moriah on 3 levels. First level Abraham approached was where he met Melchizedek. 1000 years later this became a Jebusite city captured by David. He made it the City of David.

God had told David to buy what was then a threshing floor and oxen for 50 shekels. 2 Sam. 1-25

In Chron. 21:16-28 David paid 600 shekels for the place, which probably means he bought the whole area, not just the threshing floor.

The next higher level is where Solomon This is considered by the Jews to be the most holy place on earth, and probably where they rested before final ascent to the northern peak of Moriah (worship was almost always done on the highest point of a mountain.)

This northern level is called "Golgatha,," The place of the Skull, where Messiah was crucified and probably where Abraham was to be offered!

Add "Place of the Skull" to paper on each side.

Verses 15-19

By MYSELF I have sworn.. (SHABAH) I have "sevens" MYSELF.

Abraham blessed God by obeying; now he would be blessed by God. By multiplying (in increase); by continuing to obey

I will increase as the sand of the lip of the sea. Your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies-refers to the Canaanite land in the future.

Notice: Abraham and his servants returned to Beer Sheva. No more mention of Isaac at this time.

Add "absent after sacrifice" to both sides of paper

Truly a rehearsal of the great event which was to come.

We aren't told the timing of this rehearsal, but I wouldn't be surprised if it happened on the very time of Passover, as God is a God of Order.

Verse 19

Abraham stayed in Beer Sheva. No mention of Sarah. Did she know about all this? I personally doubt it.

Here is what the Midrash (written by men, not God) teaches: Satan was so infuriated that God spared Isaac, that he went to Sarah and said, "Do you know what Abraham did? He killed Isaac and offered him as a sacrifice on the altar!"

At that, Sarah began to cry and wail three times, like three blasts of a shophar (a ram's horn) and her soul burst forth and she died.

After the Akedah', Abraham had sent Isaac to his mother, at that time, living in Kir yath ar'ba, which was near Hebron and Abraham received word of Sarah's death when he reached Beer Sheva.

Whether this is what actually happened, we don't know, but our hearts feel for Sarah in such a situation.

And I wonder' would it be even harder for a mother to obey god in this matter than a father? For she gave birth to that son and there can be such a bond .

Verses 20-23

Some time after the Akedah' , Abraham heard news from Haran that Milcah had had a brood of kids.

Remember her sister, Iscah? The belief is that she was Lot's wife.

It had been about 60 years since Abraham had seen his brother, Nahor.

Huz - Also called Uz (Job 1:1, the place whee Job lived) pronounced "ootz" and means inner strength

Buz - "Booz" (Job 32:2) Elihu was one of Buz's descendants /Buzite country was in what is now Jordan, around Aqaba Petrea, Petra, Arabia

Kemuel - "Raised by God"

Chesed - "Mercy"

Bethuel - "House of God" the youngest of the 8 kids; father of Rebekah. This is the first time he is mentioned.

Verse 24

Nahor also had 4 more children by a concubine:

Rue mah' - "Raised" Tebah - "Massacre" Gaham' - "To Burn" Maa kaw' - "Depression"

Sad names.

GENESIS 23 / SARH IS BURIED

The last verses of chapter 22 indicate Abraham was thinking of Isaac's future. It was his position as father to find a bride for his son. Issac was pushing 40 and it was time to get him married and settled with a family.

He didn't want a local bride for him from the surrounding pagan community, but someone from the family and someone who would obey God.

Nothing new. God wants Christians to marry Christians because He knows the problems that come from being united with someone living in the world.

God blessed Sarah with a miracle son in her old age and then gave her another 37 years to be a mother to him. He was a good, loving son; and an obedient son who brought much joy and laughter to her and to Abraham.

For some reason, we are not told why she was living in Hebron, apart from Abraham. It may be she was moved there for a better environment in her aged condition.

Verses 1-2

Abraham heard of her death. What a blow it must have been for him! They had spent most of their lives together; united. It would be like cutting off a part of yourself to lose your love, as many of you understand so well.

Abraham came to mourn-to tear the hair and beat the breasts; to weep- to wail. Ever attended a funeral such as that? This is the Middle-eastern way of grieving.

Verses 3-9

Abraham strengthened himself in the face of her death and (dabar) spoke words in order to make arrangements.

Remember: Abraham was now the richest man in the land and the most famous and influential. Everyone had heard of how God was blessing him and protecting him.

Sons of Heth – Heth means “Terror” Heths were Hittites. They settled in the North into what is now Turkey, but some moved down into Canaan. Abraham was polite and tactful in dealing with them. “I am a 'guest' and a sojourner in your land and I need a place to bury my dead here.

Verse 6 – Shema’ “Hear us and do this. You are the 'elohee' (supreme) and (exalted) one. You can have your pick of the best of our sepulchres or tombs.

The offer was to mix his dead with their dead, using some tombs.

Abraham knew he was not to be part of the world, but to be separate.

“Speak on my behalf to Ephron' son of Zohar to sell me the cave of Mac pay law' and I'll pay full price for it.”

Ephron' -”fawn like,”; “dust,” probably refers to his skin tone.

Zohar - “whiteness”; very light skin would follow

Mac pay law' - “a low hill or hollow” means “double” either refers to a double cave or to the couples to be buried there.

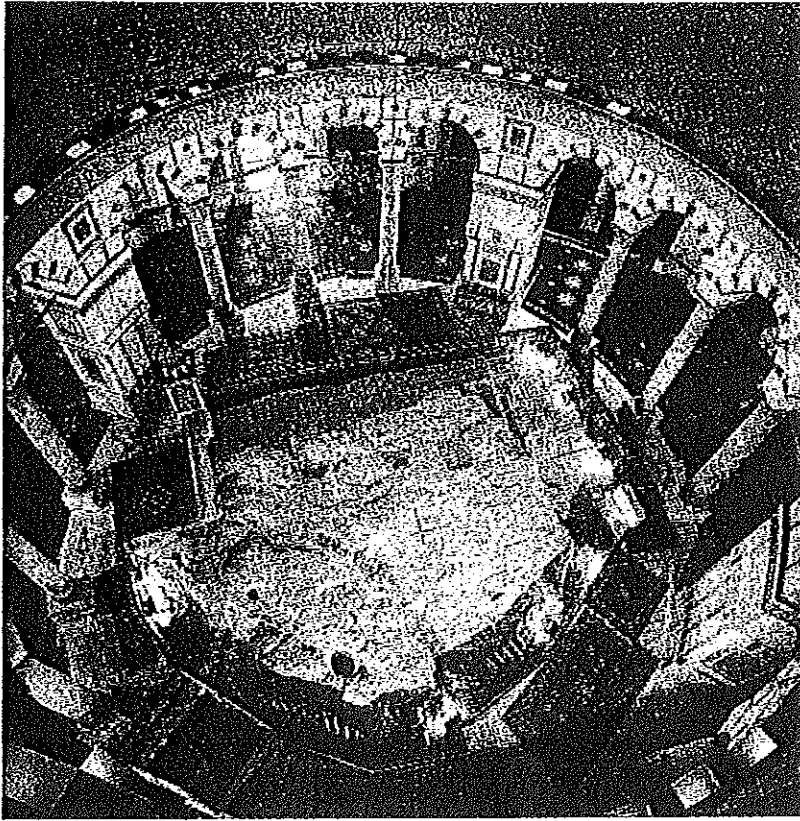
NEXT SCENE:

Verses 10-20

Ephron 'dwelt'- he was sitting at the gate of the city where business was done and there was a group of people to hear what was happening. Ephron' at first offered to give it to Abraham, but Abraham said, “If you are willing to give it, then listen, surely, you would be willing to sell it to me.

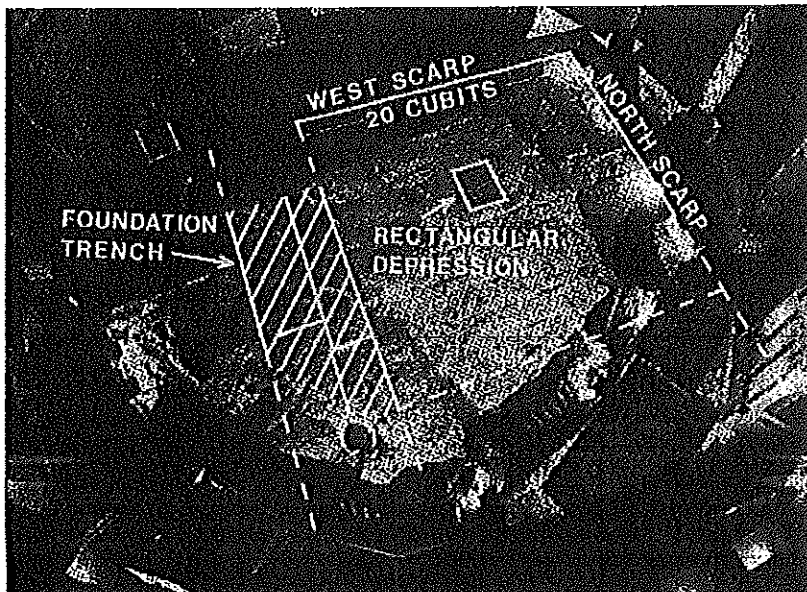
Ephron now showed his true colors-he was a cheater. He jacked up the price to an exorbitant amount, yet Abraham didn't argue; weighed out the silver. No coinage at this time.. A shekel was ½ oz. Silver. Before deal, Ephron's name had a “vav” in middle. After, God removed the “vav.” as he dishonored himself. (vav-”to secure”)

For the first time, Abraham owned land in Canaan, his promised land. The cave, the field and trees.



The Foundation Stone was the place where the Holy-of-Holies stood in the Temple. As the highest point of the Temple Platform, it was also the holiest. The Jews consider it the holiest place on earth.

The Rock has suffered somewhat at the hands of men over the last 2000 years, but you can still make out the rectangle cut out in the Rock where the Ark of the Covenant would have been placed:



I believe that Abraham did not offer up Isaac where the Temple Platform is now, because this is NOT the highest point of Mt. Moriah. As you go further north, Mt. Moriah goes up to an even higher level. Now sacrifices were generally made at the high places, so therefore Abraham would not have offered up Isaac on the Flat Platform, which was on the way up to the top of Mount. He would surely have done it at the Peak of Moriah, to the north of the present walls of Jerusalem.