



**Beresheit ch. 22**

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

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

So he **awoke** 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.

On the third day, Abraham **looked up** and **saw** the place from afar.

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

Abraham **took** the wood for the burnt offering and **placed** it on his son Isaac. He himself **took** the firestone<sup>a</sup> *Lit. "fire."* and the knife; and the two walked off together.

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?"

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

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.

And Abraham **picked up** the knife **to slay** his son.

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְהָאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

וַיֹּאמֶר קַח־נָא אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יִחִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר־אַהֲבָת אֶת־יִצְחָק וְלֶךְ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרְיָה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶחָד הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֹמַר אֵלֶיךָ:

וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם בְּבֹקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת־חֲמֹלּוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי נַעֲרָיו אִתּוֹ וְאֶת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּבְקַע עֵצִי עֲלֵה וַיִּקַּח וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר־לּוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים:

בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־הַמְּקוֹם מֵרֶחֶק:

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נַעֲרָיו שְׁבוּ־לָכֶם פֹּה עִם־הַחֲמֹלּוֹר וְאַנִּי וְהַנֶּזֶר נִלְכָה עַד־לָכָה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתֶם וְנִשְׁבַּחְתֶּם אֱלֹהִים:

וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵצֵי הָעֹלָה וַיִּשָּׂם עַל־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדוֹ אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלִת וַיֵּלְכֵה שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי בְּנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהַעֲצִים וְאַיִה הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲלֵהִים יִרְאֶה־לּוֹ הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה בְּנִי וַיֵּלְכֵה שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אָמַר־לּוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּבְנוּ שָׁם אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַיַּעֲרֹךְ אֶת־הָעֵצִים וַיַּעֲקֹד אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּשָּׂם אֹתוֹ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִמַּעַל לְעֵצִים:

וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלִת לְשַׁחֵט אֶת־בְּנוֹ:

[GNI] עם הערות:



Then an angel of the LORD called to him from heaven: **“Abraham! Abraham!”** And he answered, **“Here I am.”**

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.**”

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.

And Abraham named that site Adonai-yireh (*God will see / choose*) hence the present saying, “On the mount of the LORD He (*the presence of God*) he (*the one or nation who sacrifices*) will be seen / chosen.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By Myself I swear (*language of an OATH*), such the LORD declares: Because you have done this and **have not withheld your son, your favored one,**

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 **inherit the gates (towns)** of their enemies.

All the nations of the earth shall become **blest** by your descendants, because you have obeyed My voice.”

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

וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים מִלְּאֵךְ יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם  
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם | אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־תִּשְׁלַח יָדְךָ אֶל־הַנְּעָר וְאֶל־  
תַּעֲשֵׂה לּוֹ מְאוּמָה כִּי | עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־  
יָרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶתְּךָ וְלֹא חָשַׁקְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֶךָ  
אֶת־יְחִידְךָ מִמֶּנִּי:

וַיֵּשֶׁא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא וְהִנֵּה־אֵיל  
אֲחֵר נֹאֲחָז בְּסֹבֵף בְּקִרְנָיו וַיִּלֶּךְ אַבְרָהָם  
וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֵיל וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ לְעֹלָה תַּחַת בְּנוֹ:

וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם שְׁם־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא  
יְהוָה | יִרְאָה אֱשֶׁר יֹאמֶר הַיּוֹם בְּהָר יְהוָה  
יִרְאָה:

וַיִּקְרָא מִלְּאֵךְ יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׁנֵית מִן־  
הַשָּׁמַיִם:

וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־יְהוָה כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר  
עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא חָשַׁקְתָּ אֶת־  
בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יְחִידְךָ:

כִּי־בָרַךְ אֶבְרָכְךָ וְהִרְבֵּה אַרְבֵּה אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ  
כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחֲזוּל אֲשֶׁר עַל־שֵׁפֶת  
הַיָּם וַיִּרְשׁ זַרְעֲךָ אֶת

וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְּזַרְעֲךָ שְׁעַר אֲיָבָיו: כָּל גּוֹיִ  
הָאָרֶץ לְעֵינֵי אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלִי:

וַיֵּשֶׁב אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נַעֲרָיו וַיִּקְמוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ יַחְדָּו  
אֶל־בְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיֵּשֶׁב אַבְרָהָם בְּבְאֵר  
שָׁבַע:



### Rav Kook - Letters

The absolute self surrender characteristic of idolatry in which primitive man found his be all and end all, until it triumphed over parental pity and made cruelty towards sons and daughters the keynote of Molech worship, springs from an inner hidden conviction that the Divine is more precious than anything else and all that is beloved and admired is as nought before it.

...When the Divine light had to shine forth in its purity, it was revealed in the fierceness of its brightness in the trial of Avraham which showed that the passion and self surrender in a Divine cause did not have to take the disgusting form of idol worship in which the Divine spark of good has become completely lost...

All these are obvious matters. The distinctive and unusual feature added here is that the self surrender involved in communion with the Divine on the higher spiritual plane can be no less ecstatic...

### Beresheit Raba 56:8

Avraham stretched out his hand to take the knife, and his eyes were spilling over with tears, and his tears were falling into the open eyes of Yitzhak, tears of fatherly compassion, and nevertheless his heart was joyous to do the will of his Creator.

... וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת יָדוֹ, הוּא שׁוֹלֵחַ יָד לְטַל אֶת הַסָּכִין וְעֵינָיו מִזְרִידוֹת דְּמָעוֹת וְנוֹפְלוֹת דְּמָעוֹת לְעֵינָיו שֶׁל יִצְחָק מִרַחֲמָנִיתוֹ שֶׁל אָבִא, וְאֵף עַל פִּי כֵן הֵלֵב שְׂמֵחַ לַעֲשׂוֹת רְצוֹן יוֹצְרוֹ,