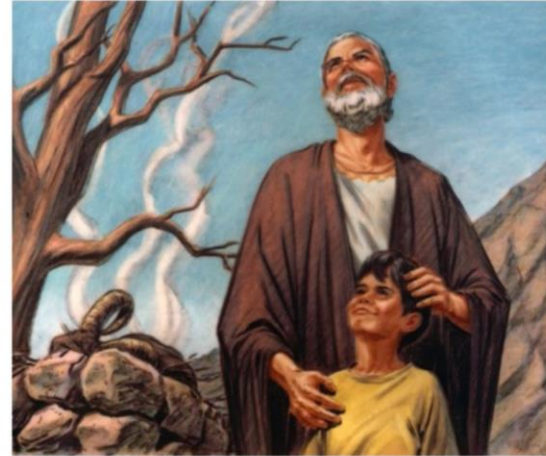




Have you had a hard test? Well, God tested Abraham. God said, "Abraham, I want you to take your son Isaac, who I know you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you.

Abraham got out of bed early in the morning and saddled his donkey, took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. On the way, they chopped and packed the wood for the burnt offering and headed for the place God told him.



It took three days to travel to the place God had chosen. When they arrived Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, the boy and I will go and worship, and we will come back to you when we finish."



Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac to carry. Abraham carried a torch of fire and a knife. He and Isaac went up the mountain together. Isaac spoke to Abraham asking, "Father! We have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself." So, the two of them continued up the mountain together.

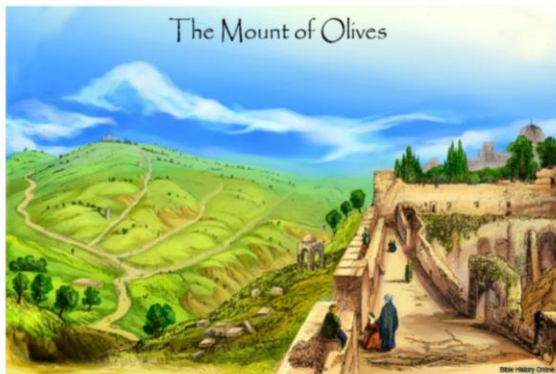


When they came to the place God had chosen, Abraham built an altar and placed the wood on it. He grabbed Isaac, tied him up and laid him on the wood on the altar. Abraham took the knife and prepared to kill his son. Just as Abraham was about to strike, the Lord called to him from heaven and said "Abraham, Abraham! Do not touch the boy or do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."



Abraham lifted his eyes and looked behind him. He saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. Abraham freed Isaac and took the ram and offered it up to God, a burnt offering instead of his son.

GOD WILL  
PROVIDE  
THE LAMB



Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide. Some people say the Lord was very specific in telling Abraham where to perform the sacrifice. They say it was because this was because this was the very same place where Solomon built the temple of God. Later it was called the Hill of Calvary, where Jesus died. It is also the same mountain, on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus will return.

Abraham returned to his young men and they all went to Beersheba.

Pop thought for a minute and then said, "Every time I've heard this story, or I have seen a movie about this story, Isaac was always a young boy. Well, I think he was between 15 and 20 years old. I believe this because Abraham took the wood he chopped for the sacrifice and gave an d gave it to Isaac to carry. If Isaac had been a young boy, i would have been too heavy for him to carry. If he was much older, I think it would have been difficult for Abraham to grab and bind him. What do you think?"



Abraham's wife, Sarah, lived 127 years and then she died. At the time of her death, Abraham was 137 years old and Isaac was 37 years old. Abraham was away from Sarah when she died. He traveled to where Sarah was to bury her. I don't know where Isaac was during his mother's death and burial, but he had to be more than 3 days away when she died.



When Abraham arrived, he said he was a visitor in town, so he told the people he wanted to buy a place to bury Sarah. All the land owners in the area said the only thing that Abraham had to do was pick a site and they would give it to him. Abraham looked at several places and chose a site but would not take possession of it or bury Sarah until he paid full price for it.



Abraham paid 400 Shekels of silver for the property. Then he buried Sarah.

There are a lot of questions about this time. Some people ask:

1. "Why wasn't Abraham with Sarah when she died?"
2. "Did Abraham live in a different city than Sarah?"
3. "Was Sarah angry with Abraham for going off to sacrifice Isaac?"
4. "Where was Isaac?"

The Bible doesn't answer any of these questions for us, but I think that after Abraham's intention to sacrifice Isaac, he knew Sarah would not forgive or forget what he intended to do. I believe that is why Abraham went to Beersheba and lived there. I believe Abraham sent Isaac back to Sarah. Sarah probably didn't trust Abraham close to her son after that. Mothers get a little sensitive about anyone planning to end the lives of their children.

Since Isaac was 37 years old, it's probably safe to guess he was off on some business trip.