

## By giving up Isaac, what did Abraham accomplish?

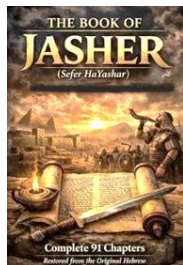


In the book of Genesis, we read that when God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham and Isaac were on their way the very next morning. (Gen.22:1-3) He did not argue, but told Sarah that he wanted to take Isaac to the house of Shem to learn the ways of the Lord from him. Sarah agreed with tears. (Jasher 23:3-19) After a lot of goodbye tears, Abraham and Isaac were on their way. It was between him and the Lord. He knew what God expected of him and he was on his way, no delay, no reconsideration of what God had told him. Even Isaac did not know until they arrived at place of sacrifice.

In the book of Jasher\* is a detailed account of the conversation between Abraham and Isaac.

\* [‘The Book of Jasher’](#) is referred to in Joshua 10:13 and 2Samuel 1:18

The following is taken from the book of Jasher chapter 23:1,2; 47-69



‘At that time the word of the Lord came to Abraham, and he said unto him, Abraham, and he said, Here I am. And he said to him, Take now your son, your only son whom you love, even Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which shall be shown to you, for there will you see a cloud and the glory of the Lord... When they reached the mountains Abraham told the two that were with them, You abide here with the ass while I and Isaac my son will go to yonder mount and worship there before the Lord and then return to you. And Abraham took wood for a burnt offering and placed it upon his son Isaac, and he took the fire and the knife, and they both went to that place. And **when they were going along Isaac said to his father, Look, I see here the fire and wood, and where then is the lamb that is to be the burnt offering before the Lord?**



And Abraham answered his son Isaac, saying, **The Lord has made choice of you my son, to be a perfect burnt offering instead of the lamb. And Isaac said unto his father, I will do all that the Lord spoke to you with joy and cheerfulness of heart.** And Abraham again said unto Isaac his son, Is there in your heart any thought or counsel concerning this, which is not proper? Tell me my son, I pray you, O my son, conceal it not from me. And Isaac answered his father Abraham and said unto him, O my father, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is nothing in my heart to cause me to deviate either to the right or to the left from the word that he has spoken to you. **But I am of joyful and cheerful heart in this matter, and I say, Blessed is the Lord who has this day chosen me to be a burnt offering before Him.** And Abraham greatly rejoiced at the words of Isaac, and they went on and came together to that place

that the Lord had spoken of. And Abraham approached to build the altar in that place, and Abraham was weeping, and Isaac took stones and mortar until they had finished building the altar. And Abraham took the wood and placed it in order upon the altar which he had built. And he took his son Isaac and bound him in order to place him upon the wood which was upon the altar, to slay him for a burnt offering before the Lord. And **Isaac said to his father, ‘Bind me securely and then place me upon the altar lest I should turn and move, and break loose from the force of the knife upon my flesh and thereof profane the burnt offering;’ and Abraham did so.**

And Isaac still said to his father, O my father, when you shall have slain me and burnt me for an offering, take with you that which shall remain of my ashes to bring to Sarah my mother, and say to her, This is the sweet smelling savour of Isaac; but do not tell her this if she should sit near a well or upon any high place, lest she should cast her soul after me and die.

And Abraham heard the words of Isaac, and he lifted up his voice and wept when Isaac spoke these words; and **Abraham's tears gushed down upon Isaac his son, and Isaac wept bitterly, and said, Hasten, O my father, and do with me the will of the Lord our God as He commanded you. And the hearts of Abraham and Isaac rejoiced at this thing which the Lord had commanded them; but the eye wept bitterly while the heart rejoiced.**



And Abraham bound his son Isaac, and placed him on the altar upon the wood, and Isaac stretched forth his neck upon the altar before his father, and Abraham stretched forth his hand to take the knife to slay his son as a burnt offering before the Lord. *(Isaac's example must have given extra grace to Jesus.)*

At that time the angels of mercy came before the Lord and spoke to him concerning Isaac, saying, 'Have you seen, O Lord, how Isaac the son of Abraham your servant is bound down to the slaughter like an animal? Now therefore let your pity be roused for them, O Lord.'

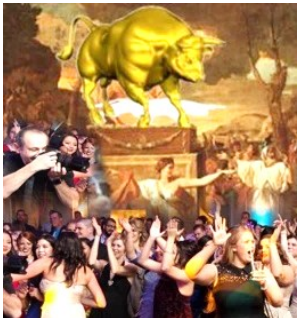
At that time the Lord appeared unto Abraham, and called to him, from heaven, and said unto him, '**Lay not your hand upon the lad**, neither do anything unto him, for now I know that you fear God in performing this act, and in **not withholding your son, your only son, from me.**'

*End of the book of Jasher's account*

The Lord halted the sacrifice in the last moment, as we see 'Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; being fully persuaded that, what God promised, he was able also to perform.' (Rom.4:20,21) Abraham's willingness to give up his beloved son to God, was the clincher for the most earthshaking gentleman's agreement between God and Abraham.

As we know the Lord is influenced by our prayers and He changes his plans according to our prayers as we see in Exodus 32:7-14

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, you get down; for your people, which you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: *(Here we can really see how the Lord has emotions like us as he says to Moses, You get down to your people, which you brought out of Egypt, it is like the Lord is tired of them and puts the responsibility on Moses)*



They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and sacrificed thereunto, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, which have brought you up out of the land of Egypt.'

*(Now we don't worship the golden calf, but the golden Bull when the stock market rises it's a Bull market and we cheer and dance around the Bull.)*

I have seen this people, and, look it is a stiff-necked people: **Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of you a great nation.** *(Moses is not willing to take the blame)* And he besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why does your wrath wax hot against your people, which you have brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?

**Turn from your fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore** by your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven...

**And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.**

And it came to pass, as soon as Moses came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and broke them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.'

I interjected this story of Moses to show how the Lord is influenced by our prayers and our decisions.

**To see that Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son for the Lord, had a definite influence on the Father to be willing to give his beloved Son for Abraham's descendants.** Hence, Jesus came primarily for the salvation of the Jews, the most faithful branch of Abraham's children.



When they crucified Jesus, Pilate wrote the sign: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS in three languages. After Jesus completed his mission to the Jews, he returned to the Father.

Abraham was called '**the Friend of God**', (James 2:23) Deep friendships of mutual trust and respect are wrought during traumatic, life-or-death experiences; both Abraham and God went through the same heart-rending experience of sacrificing their beloved sons. They totally understood each other; Abraham because he gave everything that was **dearest** to him to God... God in return gave everything **dearest** to him to redeem first the Jews, Abraham's offspring. Subsequently his apostles and disciples went out into the world with the good news to the goyim, the gentiles, for which I, being a goy, am extremely thankful. (John 3:16) And if we are Christ's, then are we Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:29)

With Jesus, God gave us the power to become His true children. (John 1:12) Yet, many of us don't take hold of that power and continue our lives as if nothing has changed. Our life here on earth is too short to ignore **eternity that's awaiting us all.**

For our peace of mind; the Lord will not ask of any of us to physically sacrifice our child. But he might just ask us to give them up in order to follow him to a new country to bring the gospel to those, where many have not heard. (Mat.19:29) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go to a place, obeyed; and he went, not knowing where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8)

Please download 'The Big Plan', which gives the chronological order of events before the return of Jesus can happen.

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