

## **The Sacrifice of Isaac and the Sons of Nahor (Genesis 22)**

Grace Chapel September 23, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

### **INTRODUCTION**

### **NEW EXPOSITION**

**(22:1–2) Later God tested Abraham: When God called, he answered, “Here I am,” God then told him to offer his beloved only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering on a mountain in Moriah [Jerusalem] that God would designate.**

It is probably reasonable to surmise that Isaac was in early to mid teen years

Note that Isaac was able to carry the firewood that the donkey had carried (v 6)

If he were 14, Abraham would have been 113

Although, this is a sacrifice, it is not a sacrifice for sin

Consider the burnt offerings of Leviticus 1

By contrast, consider the sin sacrifices of Leviticus 4

We see parallels that exist between Jesus as the Father’s sacrifice for sin and Isaac as Abraham’s consecratory burnt offering. Unfortunately, we try to push the parallels too far.

**(22:3) Abraham [obediently] rose early to go to where God commanded him, taking a donkey, two young men, Isaac, and split wood for the burnt offering**

**(22:4) On the third day, Abraham could see the place in the distance**

50 miles is a three-day trip for younger people.

Abraham is not young. However, he did remarry after the age of 137 and had six children (Cf. Gen 23:1 & 25:1–2), so it would seem that he would have been physically fit at age 113 or so to make this trip to Jerusalem in 3–4 days.

There is chronological flexibility here. Arrival could have been on the third or fourth day.

**(22:5) [As they were at the foot of Mt. Moriah] Abraham told the young men to stay with the donkey as he and Isaac went to worship and would return**

Notice that Abraham says “we will come back to you,” despite Genesis 22:2

Explaining what Abraham understood & the commentary in Hebrews 11:19

**(22:6) Abraham put the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac, took fire starter (flint?), and the two went up the appointed mount**

**(22:7) [As they walked up the mount] Isaac said, “My father,” to which Abraham said, “Here I am, my son,” then Isaac said that they had the fire and the wood, but no lamb**

**(22:8) Abraham assured him that God would provide the lamb for the burnt offering**

**(22:9) Upon reaching the designated place, Abraham built an altar, arranged the wood, bound Isaac, and set him upon the altar**

**(22:10) Abraham raised his hand with the knife and was about to slay his son**

**(22:11–12) God said “Abraham” from heaven, Abraham said, “Here I am,” and told him not to harm Isaac, because He now knew that Abraham would not even withhold his only son from God.**

**(22:13) Abraham then saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket and offered the ram, instead of his son**

**(22:14) Abraham called the place YHWH Yireh: The LORD will provide”); it was still a proverb in Moses’ day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”**

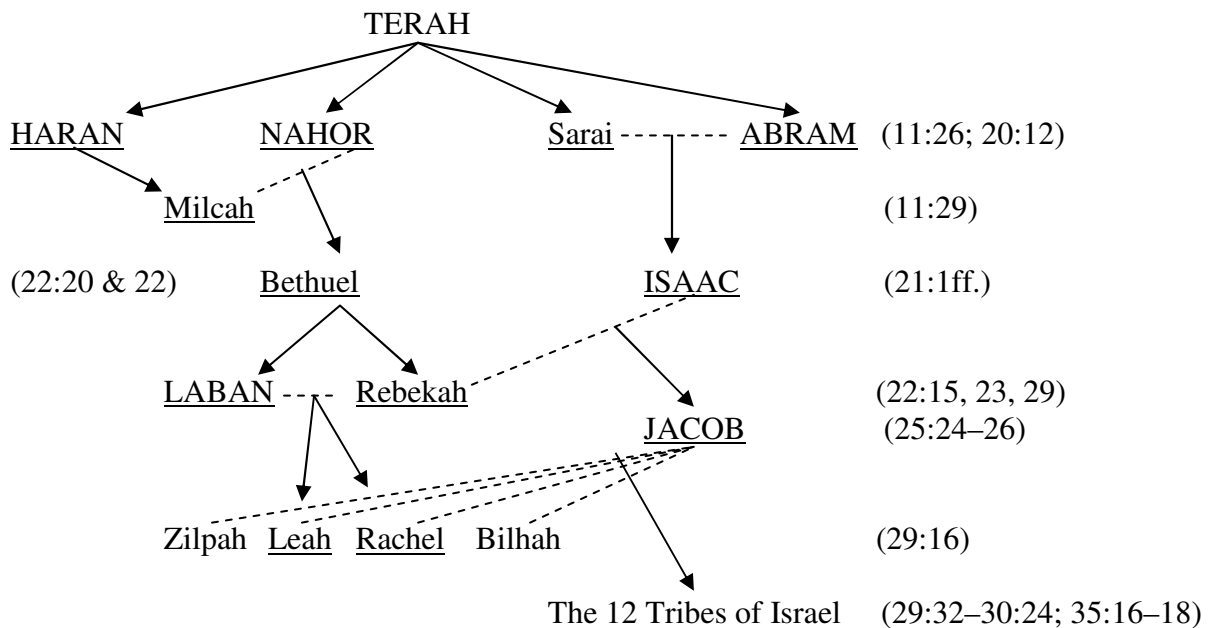
**(22:15–16) The Angel of the Lord called again, swearing to fulfill the promises to Abraham, because Abraham did not withhold his only son**

**(22:17) God [strengthened the promise] that He would multiply his seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand of the seashore, so his seed would triumph over enemies**

**(22:18) God [strengthened the promise] that in Abraham's seed He would bless all families of the earth, because Abraham obeyed**

**(22:19) Abraham [and Isaac] returned to the young men and returned to Beersheba and he sojourned there**

**(22:20–24) Later, Abraham learned that Nahor and Milcah had eight children (including Bethuel, the mother of Rebekah) as well as having children through a concubine, Reumah**



**CONCLUSION**