

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## GENESIS 19-22

In 1829 a Mexican explorer was traveling westward when he noticed green wetlands in the middle of the Mojave Desert. He named the area “[The Meadows](#).” In Spanish it’s “[Las Vegas](#).” Fort Baker was built there in 1864. The fort remained an outpost for 77 years.

But in 1931 the state of Nevada legalized gambling. Ten years later large casinos came to “[The Meadows](#).”

Along with them came vice and organized crime.

It’s been said, “[Las Vegas has always been a city on the border of legality, providing its neighbors with what is normally prohibited](#).” Today, Vegas draws 41 million visitors a year. And what’s happened there, happened in the Valley of Salt, during the days of Abraham. Another “[sin city](#)” rose in infamy in the desert.

Sodom and its sister city, Gomorrah, were the Las Vegas of their day. Built around freshwater springs in the desert of the Dead Sea it too gained an infamous reputation. Ezekiel 16:49 lists Sodom’s sins: [gluttony, idleness, a disregard for the poor and needy, haughtiness](#) - as well as [lewdness and abominations](#).

Just like Las Vegas, Sodom sat on “[the border of legality](#).” Sins *regulated* in a few places, and *tolerated* in most places, were *celebrated* in Sodom. Perhaps most notorious was Sodom’s wholesale embrace of sexual perversion. The city totally capitulated to homosexuality. Today we get the term “[sodomy](#)” from [Sodom](#). It was Gay Pride Day every day in Sodom.

And in Genesis 19 we see what God thinks about the sins of Sodom... *Which is vital for us today*. For the judgment of Sodom foreshadows the coming future judgment destined for the last days. In Luke 17 Jesus told us, “[As it was also in the days of Lot... even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed](#).”

Verse 1, “[Now the two angels](#) (these were Abraham and Sarah’s visitors - angels disguised as men) [came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom](#).” Remember when Lot left Abraham, Uncle Abe had given him the option to settle in any direction he chose - 13:12 says he “[pitched his tent as far as Sodom](#).” Apparently, the pleasure, and convenience, and entertainment, and commerce, and variety of this world attracted Lot and his family.

Lot started out [pitching his tent as far as Sodom](#), but when we see him again in 14:12 we’re told, Lot “[dwelt in Sodom](#).” The lure of the city had sucked him in...

Now we see him “[sitting in the gate of Sodom](#).” Which doesn’t just refer to a *site*, but to Lot’s *status*. Lot had risen to prominence. He’s now a city official.

Pay attention to the progression: He starts out *looking toward Sodom*, ends up *living in Sodom*, finally he's a *leader of Sodom*. He *sees, settles, then serves*.

*And this is how the world still pulls us in...* Our eyes lead us astray. We set our sites on the world's prestige and pleasure... Then we settle into a lifestyle bent on obtaining what we see... Finally, we end up supporting and justifying that lifestyle even when we lose the taste for it ourselves... Lot was drawn in *slowly, yet surely*.

2 Peter 2:8 says of Lot, *"that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds..."* Very little in Genesis indicates Lot was righteous, *but Peter says he was!* Yet take a righteous man, and put him in wicked surroundings, and over time it takes its toll. Sodom's evils *tortured* Lot, and *toppled* his family.

Again verse 1, *"When Lot saw (the angels), he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." But he insisted strongly..."* And the reason Lot *"insisted strongly"* was his knowledge of the city. Nights in Sodom saw homosexual predators roam the streets - raping and robbing defenseless strangers. There was nothing *gay* about them. And Lot couldn't bear the thought of two messengers from God becoming the brunt of such treatment, so he *"insisted strongly (and) they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate."*

Verse 4, *"Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally." They want to sexually abuse them. A gang of same-sex rapists bang on Lot's door.*

*"So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!"* These men had lost all conscious. A perverse lust had taken them over. They're out to ravage and brutalize innocent visitors, but notice what Lot surprisingly calls them, verse 7, *"my brethren."* Make this world your family and you'll get some unsavory brothers. This shows the totality of Lot's compromise. Imagine *the morals and truth Lot had to ignore - the convictions he had to overlook* - to reach the point where he'd call these men, *"brothers."*

Then he suggests an unimaginable alternative, *"See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." What in the world is Lot thinking to offer his virgin*

*daughters to be brutalized by beasts?*

There are commentaries that chalk Lot's offer up to the oriental custom of respecting visitors, and to the Canaanite's low view of women. Even so, I still can't relate to Lot's thinking. He's compromising his little girls. His carnality has stripped him of any courage he once had. It's confused his loyalties. It's inexcusable.

In fact, gay activists will suggest this chapter has nothing to do with homosexuality. It's about Sodom's lack of hospitality to strangers. *Really? Talk about a bias clouding the issue.* They're not reading the text! Same-sex lust and perverse desire are part of her sin. It turned ugly and violent. And God brought judgment!

"And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge (they're turning on Lot); now we will deal worse with you than with them. So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

But the men (the two angels) reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door." Notice, the blindness itself didn't shut down their lust and aggression. You'd think, if you were struck with a sudden blindness, you would stop, and listen to God. Instead they keep groping violently in the dark.

Verse 12, "Then the men (or angels) said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city - take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking." What a tragic reaction. Lot's compromises in Sodom had forfeited his credibility. He'd spent so much time *fitting in*, no one could imagine him *standing up*.

And here's the vital question for us... *If we suddenly took a stand for God, and truth, and righteousness, would our worldly friends think we were just joking?*

Verse 15, "When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." And while he lingered..." *Lot lingered!* Sodom will be incinerated, but rather than run, *he lingers*. It proves the powerful grip the world can have on us even in the face of judgment.

And here's God's grace in action, "the men took hold of (Lot's) hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city." God literally pulled him out. I wonder if every time

we're tempted God doesn't grab us by the spirit and pull us away. To really sin we've got shake Him off, and linger!

Verse 17, "So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." Lot's time in Sodom had cultivated a *fear* in his heart, rather than *faith*. Lot is invited to meet with God in the mountains, but he prefers the clamor of another city - just a smaller city.

"And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." God will save the small city. "Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar," which means "*small*." The point is God's judgment won't come until His people are safe.

And that's the way it'll be at the end of the age when the Great Tribulation rocks this planet off its foundations. *Before judgment comes down the Church will go up*. When the fires of judgment ravage the earth the people of God will be safe and secure in heaven.

Verse 23, "The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar." He left Sodom at dawn, but since he lingered the sun is now high in the sky. "Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens."

Sodom, and its neighboring city, Gomorrah, were located in the Valley of Siddim, on what is today the shores of the Dead Sea. Genesis 14:10 tells us, "the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits." The region was known for its salt and sulfur deposits. It's been suggested that God sent a lightning bolt which hit a pocket of gas in one of these asphalt pits, and it exploded, raining down fire and brimstone on the cities.

How God did it we really don't know, but the valley was burned to a crisp... Billy Graham once said, "If God does not judge America He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." Today, we're guilty of more. We've normalized same-sex relations and exalted what God calls an abomination to the level of marriage. And if God judged Sodom, He won't hesitate to judge us.

"So (God) overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But (Lot's) wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Lot's wife was *assaulted* on the way out of Sodom. She became a

*podium of sodium.*

And note Mrs. Lot. She left Sodom, but Sodom didn't leave her. Her body left, but not her heart. She loved the pleasures and treasures of this world more than the new life God promised. Apparently she was bitter at God for having to leave Sodom, and God immortalized her bitterness by turning her into a tower of salt.

And as I noted earlier, Jesus used this story as a warning to us - believers living in the last days. Luke 17:30 tells us, "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it." Don't let the world get its hooks in you - if so, you'll miss out on God's best. After you come to Christ, **don't look back.**

Verse 27, "And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD." Abraham is at his tent, and he goes out to spend time with God. From Genesis 12 to 22 there are over 100 conversations between God and Abraham. Here was a man who lived in constant conversation with God.

Abraham loved communing with God. But on this morning, when he walks out of his tent *he sees smoke!*

"Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt. Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar." He must've thought that God would judge Zoar just as He'd judged Sodom.

"And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave." Fear dominates them. They were called to the mountains, but now end up in a cave. *And what follows is tragic...*

Lot's two daughters show how indoctrinated they were in the perversions of Sodom. One weekend they get their dad *sloppy drunk*. The first night the firstborn takes him to bed. The second night the younger. He sires two children in two nights. Lot ends up with the peculiar distinction of becoming a dad and a granddad simultaneously. Incest riddles what's left of this family.

Lot may've managed to retain the title "righteous man" while living in Sodom, *but certainly his family didn't.* His wife loved Sodom's possessions, looking back with a longing gaze. His daughters learned Sodom's perversions, and got their own father drunk so he would sire their sons. *It all proved that compromise with sin brings dire consequences. if not on you immediately, then ultimately on your family!*



Verse 37, “The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.” And through the centuries, these tribes end up causing the Israelites a heap of trouble. They become idolaters, and ultimately God’s enemies.

Chapter 20, “And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.” Which was Philistine country... “Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.”

*Sound familiar?* This is what he said 25 years earlier to the Pharaoh in Genesis 12. *And do you remember Abram’s rationale for this lie?* Sarah was so gorgeous he was worried the pagan king would kill him to take her as his wife. We were amazed this was his concern when Sarah was 65. Now she’s 90 years old, and still pretty enough to be attractive to an oriental king.

*If only Sarah had left us her secret... or maybe she has!* 1 Peter 3 encourages Christian women to have “the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.” And to be “submissive to (their) husband, as Sarah obeyed Abraham” Spiritual beauty is timeless. *It never wrinkles.* A submissive spirit is always attractive.

It’s amazing though, that Abraham repeats the same mistake he made two decades earlier. In between these two mistakes Abraham had grown in his faith, and in his knowledge of God - but apparently Abraham had never taken the time to restructure his thinking toward his wife and his fears. So when thrown into the same situation he responds in the exact way.

And this happens to believers... We come to know God, and grow spiritually - but then a situation pops up that presses for a response. Since we’ve never retrained our minds, we revert back to the way we use to cope, and fall into the same trap because we never transformed our thinking to God’s wisdom. Ephesians 4:23 says let’s “Be renewed in the spirit of our mind.”

“And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, “Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.” But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she, even she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this.” And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.” God knew Abimelech had been lied too. He honored the king’s integrity, and kept him from adultery.

“Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you

and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." It's Abraham who's lied to Abimelech, yet Abe is introduced as *a prophet*. God promises Abimelech that Abraham will pray for him. I'm sure he's thinking, he should be praying for Abraham.

Verse 8, "So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very afraid. And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done." Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?" *What were you thinking, man?* "And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife. But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife." Sarah was Abraham's half-sister. Making his statement a half-truth. But hey, *"a half-truth, said with the intent to deceive, still makes for a whole lie."*

"And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother."

Abraham admits they schemed this ahead of time. Wherever they went they told this lie. *They were afraid God wouldn't protect them so they resorted to this lie.*

Verse 14, "Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him. And Abimelech said, "See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver..." He was being a bit sarcastic when he called Abraham her brother. "Indeed this vindicates you before all who are with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked." She too had lied, and needed a rebuke.

"So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife." All is well again when they leave.

Chapter 21, "And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken." God always does just **"as He has spoken."**

"For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him - **whom Sarah bore to him** - Isaac." The name means *"he will laugh."* Both Abraham and Sarah laughed at God's promise that a 90 year old could bear a son. But

as we know, *God always gets the last laugh.*

Picture in your mind a funny site - *you'll laugh.* I love this picture: two silver-haired seniors, 90 and 100, with their newborn baby. It really is a laughable miracle!

Recall 25 years elapsed between the first giving of this promise and its reception. Always expect a delay between the giving and receiving of God's promise. We live now in the in-between time. That's why it takes "**faith and patience**" to inherit God's promises.

**"Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him."** Circumcision is the sign of the Abrahamic covenant. Which reminds me of a Boston rabbi - a big baseball fan. He said he had something in common with Joe DiMaggio. Both were called, *"The Yankee Clipper."*

Recall it was God's earlier command to wait eight days to circumcise. Modern science has observed that males receive a surge of Vitamin K on Day Eight. This enhances the blood's clotting factor. God knew this all along, that's why He postponed circumcisions until the eighth day to protect against a baby hemorrhaging.

**"Now Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me." She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age." I mean really who would've think it!**

Verse 8, **"So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned."** A weaned child, one eating on his own, was now a toddler. **"And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing."** The word implies more than friendly kidding or boyhood teasing. Galatians 4:29 says that Ishmael was **"persecuting"** Isaac. He was torturing his brother.

**"Therefore (Sarah) said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."** Abraham's liaison with Hagar was Sarah's idea. But now she sees Ishmael's brutal treatment of Isaac, and wants Hagar and Ishmael thrown out on their ear.

Verse 11, **"And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son."** Ishmael was 17 years old, and Abraham was a faithful father. He and Ishmael had built strong ties. Ishmael was a junior in High School. Abraham had coached him in baseball his whole life. They'd gone fishing and hunting together.

*This was hard on Abraham,* and he's not sure he wants to give in to Sarah's demand. **"But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called. Yet I will also make a nation of the son**



of the bondwoman, because he is your seed." God assures Abraham He'll take care of Ishmael. He'll become a great nation in his own right.

But the house of Abraham is not big enough for both sons, and Ishmael is the odd man out. Isaac is the promised son... "in Isaac your seed shall be called."

And what was true of Abraham's household is true of the Middle East today. God has multiplied the Arabs - but the **sod**, **seed**, and **salvation** belong to Isaac.

Verse 14, "So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba." In southern Israel. "And the water in the skin was used up, and she placed the boy under one of the shrubs. Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept." Rejected, abandoned, she'd been left for dead.

"And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation." And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink." Again God comes to the aid of Hagar and Ishmael. Kicked out by Abraham's house, God doesn't abandon them. He opened Hagar's eyes to a well. He loved Ishmael, as He loves Arabs today.

Ironically, but according to the NT when an Arab embraces Jesus as his Savior he becomes a full child of Abraham - and part of God's covenant. *Abraham left Ishmael for dead, but Jesus died in Ishmael's place.*

Verse 20, "So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; (in the Sinai) and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt."

The rest of Chapter 21 records Abraham's dealings with his old friend, Abimelech. The Philistine king saw God's favor on Abraham and wanted to form an alliance. Abraham agrees, but first he needs to settle a grievance. Water was scarce in the Negev, or the southern desert. Abraham had dug a well that some of Abimelech's men had seized. Abimelech claimed to be ignorant of the matter. The two sheiks enter a covenant and Abraham reaffirms his ownership of the well.

Verse 31, "Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there." "Beersheba" means "well of an oath." Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. And

Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.”

Which brings us to a classic chapter, Genesis 22. After Isaac was born, Abraham *rested and relaxed* in Beersheba, but now his faith gets *tested* to the *max*...

Which reminds me, did you hear of the cool video games Abraham had running on his laptop. Isaac was checking them out when a concerned look came over his face. Isaac said, “Dad, I don’t think your computer has enough memory to run all these games.” Abraham replied, “Son, don’t worry, God will provide the RAM!”

“Now it came to pass after these things that God **tested** Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love.” Notice, God calls Isaac, Abraham’s “*only son*.” The Lord doesn’t even acknowledge Ishmael. Isaac is the covenant recipient.

And this also brings hope to all forgiven sinners, for if God doesn’t mention Ishmael; then it’s obvious He’s forgotten Abraham’s lapse of faith, and his sin with Hagar. Here’s proof that *what God forgives, He forgets*.

God remembered Ishmael, but not the work of the flesh that birthed him. *What God forgives He forgets*.

And notice verse 2, the word “**love**.” It’s the first time the term appears in the Bible, and it speaks of a Father’s love for his son. Abraham *loved* Isaac.

But God tells Abraham to take Isaac, “**and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.**”

Here’s the ultimate test of faith. Imagine raising a knife with the intent of slitting the throat of your only son. And what made this command so confusing was that Isaac was heir to God’s promise. God’s command flies in the face of love *and* logic, yet Abraham obeyed.

“So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder **and worship**, and we will come back to you.” Notice the phrase, “**we will come back to you.**” Abraham believes God will raise Isaac from the dead. Hebrews 11:19 tells us Abraham concluded “*that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*”

And note the insight in Hebrews. This was not only *a test for Abraham*, but *a picture for us*... As Abraham hiked 50 miles from Beersheba to Moriah, to offer *His only son*, God the Father journeyed to the same mountain 2000 years later, to offer *His Son*,

*Jesus!*

Moriah was one of the hills of the city of Jerusalem. In Abraham's day there was a settlement halfway up the mountain. This means Abraham probably climbed above that settlement to offer Isaac - at the top of the hill - at a place that would later be called "Golgotha" or "Mount Calvary." *Abraham offered his son, Isaac, on the exact spot that God would later offer His only Son.*

To see the cross of Christ from the disciples point-of-view read **the Gospels**... To visit the cross from the Son's perspective read **Psalm 22**... But in **Genesis 22** we come to the cross from the Father's viewpoint. In Abraham we see the Father's heart on display...

Verse 6, "So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together." Abraham took the wood to burn the sacrifice, wood he'd split, and laid it on Isaac. Jesus also carried wood up the same hill. He carried a Roman cross.

Notice back in verse 3, two men travel with Abraham to offer Isaac. And there were two thieves on crosses that traveled with Jesus on His gruesome journey.

*And when do you think Isaac died in the mind of Abraham?* It was probably when he left to make the trip. What's intriguing, is that according to verse 4, it took three days to reach Moriah. Thus, from Abraham's perspective, his son, Isaac, rose from the dead on the third day. The same was true for God's Son, Jesus!

Remember too, both Isaac and Jesus were born of miraculous births. Isaac is a fascinating type of Christ, while Abraham is a type of God the Father.

Verse 7, "But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together."

"Then they came to the place of which God had told him." There was an exact spot where God wanted this drama to unfold. I believe it was the place that would later support Calvary's cross. "And Abraham built an altar there..." Abraham was good at building altars. He built them everywhere he went. He was a worshipper

"And (Abraham) placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood." Realize, at this point Isaac is a fully grown man. Jewish rabbis suggest he was 30-something at the time. For an old man like Abraham to bind Isaac to the altar he needed his cooperation. *We talk about Abraham's faith, but what about the faith of Isaac?*

"And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son." Try to imagine what's happening in Abraham at this moment... *His 100 year old heart is*

*pounding. His mind is screaming, "no." His frail hand is trembling. Tears are flowing down his cheeks. His emotions are caught between a desire to obey and a love for his son. What gives Abraham the strength to stretch his hand, lift his knife, and do the impossible?*

*It was faith. Faith that God would raise Isaac from the dead. Faith that somehow God would work this out. And it's faith that strengthens us for the tests in our life.*

Well, just as Abraham is about to plunge the knife into his son, "the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." By faith Abraham passes God's test.

"Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide;" In Hebrew, "Jehovah-Jireh," or "God my provider."

"As it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided." Isaac was not the sinless sacrifice God ultimately requires, thus God stops the hand of Abraham - but 2000 years later He won't stop His own hand! Jesus is the ram of God that takes away all sin.

"Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son - blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In **your seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Galatians 3:16 makes a big deal out of the fact the word "seed" is singular, not plural. "In your seed - not seeds - all the nations... shall be blessed." Paul says this is a reference to one man, Jesus. Salvation comes through a special offspring of Abraham, Christ Jesus.

Note, today's chapters begin with judgment, yet end with mercy. The God who judged Sodom's sin willingly sent His Son to die in the place of all similar sinners!

Verse 19, "So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba." The chapter ends with a short genealogy of Abraham's brother, "Nahor." His first two kids were named "Huz" and "Buz," but the buzz here with this genealogy is that it introduces us to a young girl, "Rebekah," who becomes a wife for Isaac.

*And that comes next in Genesis 23.*