

OLD TESTAMENT GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

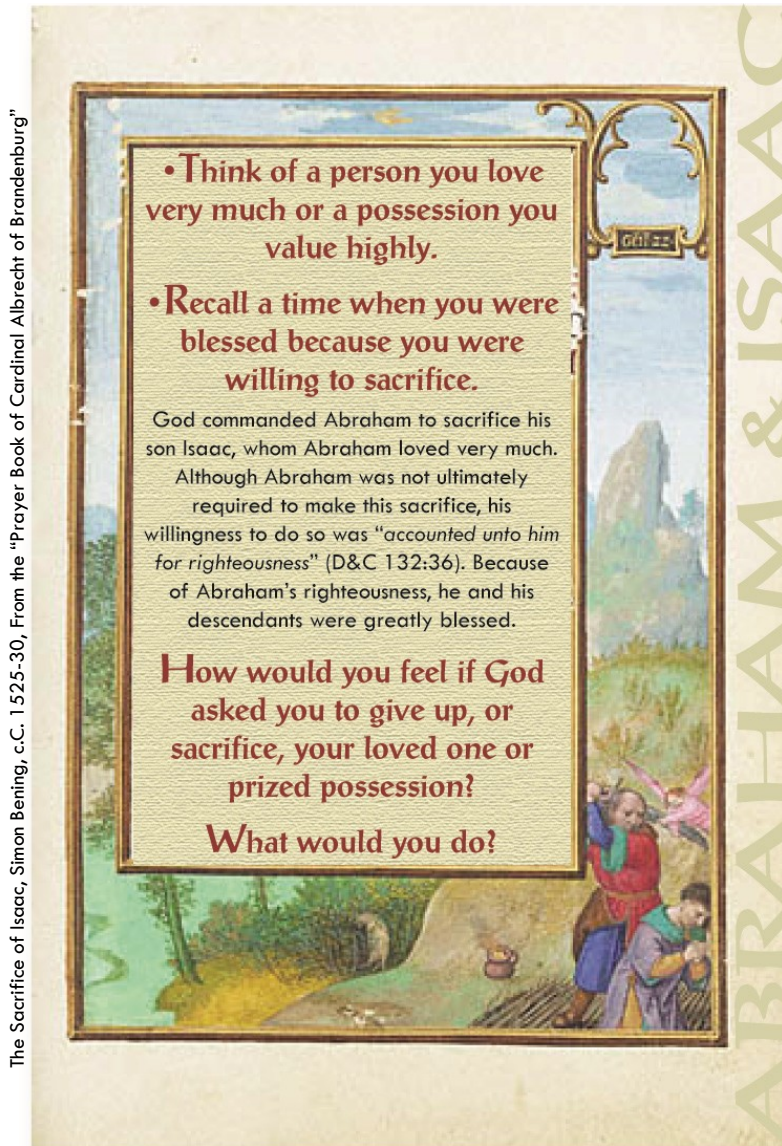
Green Mountain 1st Ward, Lakewood, Colorado

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Page 1

Lesson 9: "God Will Provide Himself a Lamb," Abraham 1; Genesis 15–17; 21–22

Introduction



Lesson Highlights

- Abraham is nearly sacrificed by the false priests of Pharaoh.
- Abraham has children through Hagar and Sarah.
- God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

A study of this lesson will help us better understand Heavenly Father's sacrifice in offering his Son as we learn of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac.

Abraham is nearly sacrificed by the false priests of Pharaoh.

- **Abraham 1:1, 5-20.**

It is helpful to understand the significance of this command and the depth of Abraham's faith. As a young man, Abraham was almost

sacrificed by a false priest of Pharaoh.

Abraham 1:1, 5-8 tells of his fathers (ancestors) con-

version to idol worship and human sacrifice.

This experience gave Abraham the opportunity to

Next Week

#10: Birthright Blessings; Marriage in the Covenant, Genesis 24–29

We are blessed with the example of faith and obedience provided by Abraham. His willingness to sacrifice Isaac was a similitude of Heavenly Father's willingness to sacrifice his Only Begotten Son.



The Sacrifice of Isaac
Caravaggio, 1601-02

“Therefore, they must needs be chastened and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son.”

D&C 101:4

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- The Lord revealed that we must be tried “even as Abraham.” What have you learned from your trials?
- How have your trials helped you prepare for difficulties in the future?

strengthen his testimony that the Lord would protect him in all circumstances as long as Abraham demonstrated obe-

dience and maintained faith in the Lord. It was a dramatic preparation for Abraham's future trials.

Abraham has children through Hagar and Sarah.

• Genesis 15–17; 21.

Genesis 15:1-6 reveals that Abraham was promised a vast posterity that would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens.

Genesis 16:1-3; D&C 132:34-35. Sarah gave Hagar, her Egyptian handmaid, to Abraham so that he might have seed. In the D&C, we find that this arrangement was a result of the Lord's command.

Genesis 16:10-11. Hagar was promised that her seed would be multiplied and she was told that her child would be a male whose name should be Ishmael.

Genesis 17:15-16, 19, 21. Here, Sarai is renamed Sarah and receives the promise that many nations will come of her son. The child was to be named Isaac and the covenant between the Lord and

Abraham would be the birthright of Isaac.



Hagar and Ishmael
- Sir Charles Lock Eastlake, 1830

Genesis 17:17. While the King James Version of the Bible says that Abraham “laughed” when he heard that Sarah would bear a son, an alternate translation of the Hebrew word is “rejoiced.” The Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible says that Abraham “rejoiced” at the news.

The revelation that Abraham and Sarah would have a son teaches us that God fulfills his promises. However, God does not necessarily fulfill promises in the way or at the time we might expect. Abraham and many others in the scriptures had to wait faithfully for many years before promised blessings were given.

Genesis 17:19-21. Note that the promises made regarding Isaac were different than those given regarding Ishmael. Ishmael would have a numerous posterity and father a great nation, but Isaac's blessings were for a numerous posterity that would bear the responsibility of the Abrahamic covenant and the opportunity for unlimited blessings as that covenant was fulfilled.

God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. (Genesis 22.)

Genesis 22:1. God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a test. (Note footnote 1a, which says the word *tempt* in this verse means to test or prove.)

This was a difficult test for Abraham. Not only was Isaac his son, but God had promised that the Abrahamic covenant would continue through Isaac and his descendants (Genesis 17:19). Another reason this would have been difficult is that as a young man, Abraham himself had nearly been sacrificed by the false priests of Pharaoh (Abraham 1:1, 5–20).

Genesis 22:3–10. There is no indication that Isaac opposed the intention of Abraham to sacrifice him.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks explained: “When they came to the prescribed place, Abra-

ham built an altar and laid wood upon it. Then, the Bible says, ‘Abraham ... bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood’ (Genesis 22:9). What did Isaac think when Abraham did such a strange thing? The Bible mentions no struggle or objection. Isaac’s silence can be explained only in terms of his trust in and obedience to his father” (Ensign, Nov. 1992, 37).

Jacob 4:5; Genesis 22:8, 13. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac was a similitude of Heavenly Father's willingness to sacrifice his Only Begotten Son .

Elder Dallin H. Oaks said: “This story ... shows the goodness of God in protecting Isaac and in providing a substitute so he would not have to die. Because of our sins and our mortality, we, like Isaac,

are condemned to death. When all other hope is gone, our Father in Heaven provides the Lamb of God, and we are saved by his sacrifice” (Ensign, Nov. 1992, 37).

Genesis 22:11–12. Abraham proved his respect for, faith in, and devotion to God by his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, the son of the covenant. While perhaps the most dramatic, this is not the only story in the scriptures where an individual has been tested as an opportunity to prove his faithfulness. Imagine the joy and blessing of peace that must come after successfully passing such a test.

Genesis 22:15-18 promises Abraham innumerable seed (eternal increase) and the opportunity for his seed to bless all the nations of the earth (by carrying the gospel to them through the priesthood).