

February 14–20

Genesis 18–23

“Is Any Thing Too Hard For the Lord?”



# Abraham and Isaac

Gen 17:15-19

How does the JST clarify verses 17-18?

What promise was made about Isaac and his seed?

## Bruce R. McConkie

Why Isaac? Because he kept the commandments and did everything he was counseled to do by his father. And so, in due course the Lord came also to Isaac and renewed upon his head all the promises given to Abraham. 'I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven,' was the divine word to Abraham's son, 'and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed' (Genesis 26:4.)" (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 37)

# Abraham and Isaac

Gen 18:9-15

How did the Lord answer Sarah's doubt about having a son?

## Harold B. Lee

"We have seen miraculous things happen, and when we think that the problems ahead are insurmountable, I would like to ask you to remember what the Lord said to Abraham. You will remember the Lord came to Abraham and said, 'Your wife will bear a son.' Abraham and his wife laughed at Him. He said, 'Don't you know that she is over ninety years of age and past childbearing years?' Do you know what the Lord said to Abraham? 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?'

"Brethren and sisters, there is nothing too hard for the Lord. If you and I have a testimony of the divine mission of this church, the kingdom of God on earth, there is nothing too hard for the Lord." (The Teachings of Harold B. Lee, pg. 1)

# Abraham and Isaac

Gen 21:1-6

In verse 6 – What is an alternative translation of “to laugh”?

# Abraham is Commanded to Sacrifice Issac

Gen 22:1-3

In verse 1 - What is an alternative translation of “tempt”?

Why is it important that the Lord try and test His people?

D&C 136:31

My people must be tried in all things, that they may be prepared to receive the glory that I have for them, even the glory of Zion; and he that will not bear chastisement is not worthy of my kingdom



## Ether 12:6

And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.

# Abraham is Commanded to Sacrifice Issac

Gen 22:4-9

What do you think Abraham meant by "God will provide himself a lamb"?

How do you think 130 year old Abraham was able to bind his 30 year old son?

## Dallin H. Oaks

“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” (CR, Oct. 1992)

## Dallin H. Oaks

“When they came to the prescribed place, Abraham 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’ (Gen 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” (CR, Oct. 1992)

# Abraham is Commanded to Sacrifice Issac

Gen 22:10-12

Why do you think Abraham was ask to prove himself in such a severe way?

## Spencer W. Kimball

“Exceeding faith was shown by Abraham when the superhuman test was applied to him. His young ‘child of promise,’ destined to be the father of empires, must now be offered upon the sacrificial altar. It was God’s command, but it seemed so contradictory! How could his son, Isaac, be the father of an uncountable posterity if in his youth his mortal life was to be terminated?...

”Father Abraham and Mother Sarah knew—knew the promise would be fulfilled. How—they did not know and did not demand to know. Isaac positively would live to be the father of a numerous posterity. They knew he would, even though he might need to die. They knew he could still be raised from the dead to fulfil the promise, and faith here preceded the miracle.” (CR, Oct. 1952)

# Abraham is Commanded to Sacrifice Issac

Gen 22:13-18

After Abraham proved he was faithful, what promised did he receive?

## Joseph Smith

"Abraham obtained power, even power of an endless life... by the offering of his son Isaac which was the power of a King and Priest to God - to open the windows of Heaven and pour out the peace and law of endless life to man.

"If a man would attain - he must sacrifice all to attain to the keys of the kingdom of an endless life." (Discourse, 22 Jan. 1843)



# Abraham is Commanded to Sacrifice Issac

## Jacob 4:5

Behold, they believed in Christ and worshiped the Father in his name, and also we worship the Father in his name. And for this intent we keep the law of Moses, it pointing our souls to him; and for this cause it is sanctified unto us for righteousness, even as it was accounted unto Abraham in the wilderness to be obedient unto the commands of God in offering up his son Isaac, which is a similitude of God and his Only Begotten Son.

# Abraham is Commanded to Sacrifice Issac

D&C 101:1-5

1 Verily I say unto you, concerning your brethren who have been afflicted, and persecuted, and cast out from the land of their inheritance—

2 I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted, in consequence of their transgressions;

3 Yet I will own them, and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.

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

5 For all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, cannot be sanctified.

# Hagar and Ishmael

Gen 16:6-12

What did the angel command Hagar to do?

What did the angel tell Hagar about Ishmael and her posterity?

# Hagar and Ishmael

Gen 21:8-13

Why did Sarah want Hagar and Ishmael to be sent away?

What's the difference between the posterity of Isaac and the posterity of Ishmael?

## Josephus

As for Sarah, she at first loved Ismael, who was born of her own handmaid Hagar, with an affection not inferior to that of her own son, for he was brought up in order to succeed in the government; but when she herself had born Isaac, she was not willing that Ismael should be brought up with him, as being too old for him, and able to do him injuries when their father should be dead; she therefore persuaded Abraham to send him and his mother to some distant country.” (Antiquities of the Jews, Book I, 12:3)

## Mark E. Petersen

“Nations, kings, princes, and multitudes were to come from Abraham through both Isaac and Ishmael—but the Lord's covenant would be with Isaac....

“There was no misunderstanding that language. Ishmael would be greatly blessed, but the covenant was to be with Isaac. The Lord was obviously selecting a particular parentage for his chosen people.”  
(Abraham: Friend of God, pg. 12-13)

# Hagar and Ishmael

Gen 21:15-20

## James B. Mayfield

“According to the Koran, Abraham brought Ishmael and his mother to Arabia and settled them near what was to become the great city of Mecca. Eventually the descendants of Ishmael’s twelve sons began to fill the Arabian peninsula.

“The Muslim’s religion permeates his life from dawn to nightfall and from his inner chamber to his shop in the crowded marketplace, with a thoroughness that most Christians are often slow to understand. Many Westerners have secularized such large areas of their lives that they have forgotten what it is to live a life in which every activity is religiously oriented.

“As Africa and Asia become a part of our great missionary program, we need a new sensitivity to the history, cultures, and religions of these areas. We cannot be friends with a person or community if we disdain or ignore what that person or community most deeply cherishes. I strongly feel that we must appreciate the Arab’s feeling for the religious duties of the Muslim, and the remarkable civilization Islam produced.” (“Ishmael, Our Brother,” Ensign, June 1979)



# Sodom and Gomorrah

Gen 18:20-24,32

## Spencer W. Kimball

“Abraham knew that the cities of the plains—Sodom and Gomorrah and other places—were wicked cities, housing wicked, godless people, saying with Cain, ‘Who is the Lord that I should know him?’ He was aware that destruction of those cities was imminent; but in his compassion for his fellowman, he begged and pleaded with the Lord, ‘Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city,’ will you spare the others of the city? That pleading being granted, came Abraham again and prayed that the cities would be saved if 45 were found, or 40 or 30 or 20 or down to ten, but apparently there could not be found even ten, in those vicious cities, who were righteous.” (CR, April 1975)

# Sodom and Gomorrah

Gen 19:15,24-28

## Spencer W. Kimball

“The evil continued. The sin was too well entrenched. They had laughed and joked about a destruction. The transgressions for which Sodom had apparently been renowned continued on....

“Everything was done that could be done by Abraham to save the city, but it had become so depraved and wanton that to save it was impossible.” (CR, April 1975)

## Boyd K. Packer

“Strangely enough, it may be that the simplest and most powerful prevention and cure for pornography, or any unclean act, is to ignore and avoid it. Delete from the mind any unworthy thought that tries to take root. Once you have decided to remain clean, you are asserting your God-given agency. And then, as President Smith counseled, ‘Don’t look back.’” (CR, Oct. 2010)

Next Week:

February 21–27

Genesis 24–27

The Covenant is Renewed

