

Abraham's Big Test

(Based on Genesis 22:1-19)

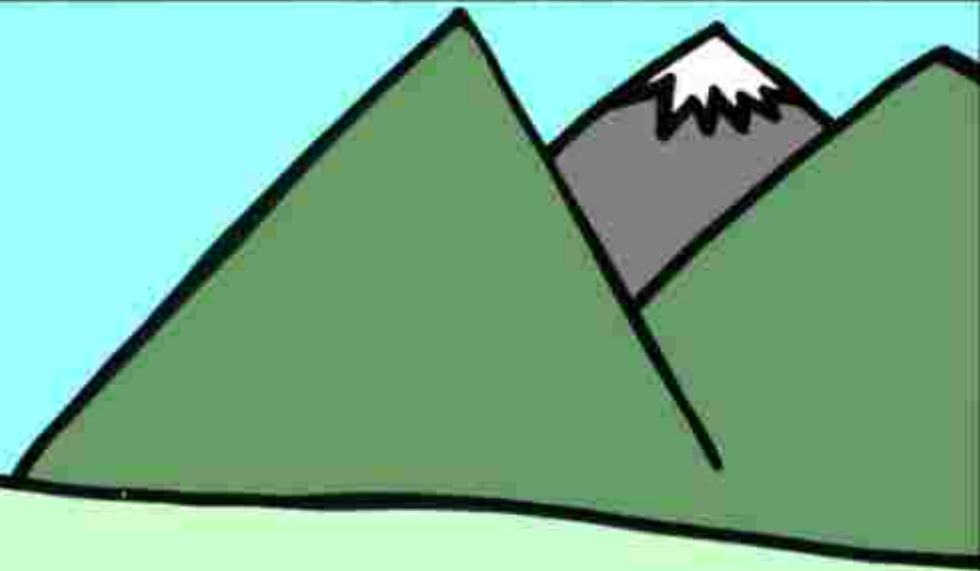
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Now it happened that God tested Abraham. "Take your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you will offer him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will show you," said God.



Abraham rose early in the morning and put a saddle on his donkey. He took two young men to help him. He took his son Isaac and he brought some wood to make the fire.



On the third day of traveling, Abraham saw the place. "Stay here with the donkey," said Abraham to his helpers. "The boy and I will go over there to worship. Then we will come back to you."



"Father, look we have the fire, and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" asked Isaac. "My son," answered Abraham. "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering."



They arrived at the special place and Abraham built an altar. He put the wood in order on the altar. He tied Isaac and laid him on top of the wood. Then he took the knife and stretched his arm up to stab his son.



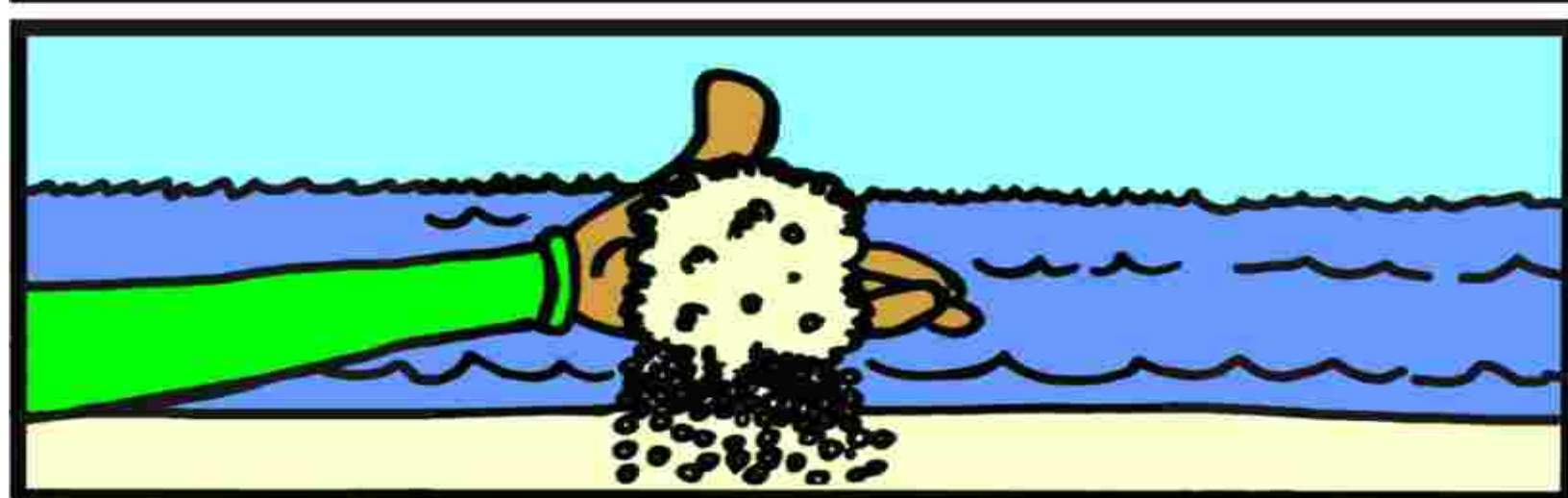
"Abraham! Abraham!" Called the angel of the Lord from heaven. "Don't do anything to the boy because now I know that you fear God since you did not hold back your son, your only son from me."



Abraham looked and there behind him was a ram whose horns were caught in the bushes.



Abraham took the ram and offered it as the burn offering instead of Isaac. Abraham called that place Jehovah Jireh, The Lord will Provide.



The angel of God called to Abraham the second time from heaven. "Because you have done this thing and did not hold back your only son, when I bless you I am going to REALLY bless you! Your descendants will be like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will be the bosses over their enemies. And in your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed because you obeyed my voice."



Lord, help me to always keep you
as my first and dearest love in my
life.