**R861 Rumination for 25th July, 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Offer Your Son**  [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext:  *Take now your Son, your* ***O****nly Son Isaac…and* ***O****ffer him …* Gen. 22:2, NKJV

The **T**hots:

1. **Abraham’s TEST – Gen. 22:3, NKJV**

*Now it came to pass after these things that God* ***tested*** *Abraham, and said to him…*

1. The **W**hy for the **T**est – would he Trust God and Obey?
2. The **C**ovenant of a **P**romised Land: Gen. 15:18-20
3. God’s **C**ovenant with Abraham to give his Descendants an inheritance of a Land:

*On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates…”*

1. The **P**roblems to be **C**onfronted by Abraham in the Test:
* If his only **S**on was **S**acrificed, the covenant would be null and void as he would have no descendants.
* But Abraham had two **S**ons, who was his “only son”?
* **I**shmael by Hagar: Gen. 16:15

 *Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.*

* **I**saac by Sarah: Gen. 17:16

*And I will bless her* [Sarah] *and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.*

1. The **C**ontract **P**rimarily ***only*** with **S**arah’s **S**on, Isaac:
2. **P**ositively **S**tated:
* **C**onfirmed by a Name **C**hange and the son’s **G**od-**G**iven Name: Gen. 17:15

*God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai,*

 *but Sarah shall her name be…Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed;*

*and thou shalt call his name Isaac:* 17:19a

* **C**onditions **S**pecifically **S**tated: 17:16
* The **P**arties **N**ominated*: I will bless her* [Sarah]*, and give thee a son…of her, yea, I will bless her,*

 *I will establish My covenant with him* [Isaac] *and with his seed* [descendants, NKJV]*…* 17:19b

* The **P**romises **N**amed: *and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.*
* Its **P**ermanency: *I will establish My covenant with him* [Isaac] *for an* ***everlasting covenant.*** 17:19b
1. Negatively **S**aid - **C**ompare the **P**romise to Ishmael:
* Abraham’s **B**ias: *Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!* 17:18
* It was not to **B**e; **B**ut compare God’s **B**lessings to Ishmael:

*As for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.* 17:20

1. The **C**ovenant Affirmatively **C**onfirmed:

***My covenant will I establish with Isaac****, which Sarah shall bear unto thee…in the next year.* 17:21

Cf. *Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him,* ***Isaac****.* 21:3

1. The **W**hat in the **T**est – **O**bey God, **O**ffer the **O**nly **S**on as **S**acrifice.

*Take now thy son, thine only son* ***Isaac****, whom thou lovest;…offer him…for a burnt offering*… Gen. 22:1-2

1. “*thine only son*” – Isaac was Abraham’s only legitimate son; the only son of his wife, Sarah. Gen. 17:15, 19
2. *“whom thou lovest” –* Isaac was his **O**nly son whom he loved, yet he must **O**ffer him up as a sacrifice

to God in **O**bedience!

1. The **W**hither of the **T**est – the **W**ay it **W**asCarried it out! Gen. 22:10-14
2. The **A**ct: *And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.* 22:10
3. *The* ***A****ngel…of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said,*

***A****braham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, …*

*for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld…thine only son from me.*

1. ***A****braham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and* ***offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.***
2. ***A****nd Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh:*
3. ***A****s it is said…In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*
4. **Abraham’s Anti-Type. Gen. 22:2, NKJV**

Abraham’s **T**est was a **T**ype of God’s **L**ove in **S**acrificing His **S**on for us to inherit eternal **L**ife.

 Compare the following **A**cts of God with **A**braham’s Test **A**bove:

1. John 3:16 (NKJV) – *For God* ***so loved*** *the world that He gave* ***His only begotten Son****,*

*that whoever believes in Him should not perish but* ***have everlasting life****.*

1. Rom. 8:32 (NKJV) – *He who* ***did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all****,*

 *how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

Con. **1 Pet. 1:3-4** (NKJV) - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the* ***resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*** *to an* ***inheritance*** *incorruptible and undefiled and* ***that does not fade away****, reserved in heaven for you*,

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 861**

1. Last week, 20-23 July, Muslims celebrated the occasion of Abraham sacrificing his son to God in obedience to His instructions. But the son they celebrated was not the sacrifice of Isaac, as recorded in the Bible, but Ishmael according to their holy scriptures.

According to Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Adha>

**Eid al-Adha** (Arabic: عید الاضحیٰ‎, romanized: Eid 'al 'Adha, lit. 'Festival of the Sacrifice') is the latter of the two official holidays celebrated within Islam (the other being Eid al-Fitr or ‘Festival of the Breaking of the Fast’). It honors the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son Ishmael (**in Judaism, Isaac**) as an act of obedience to God's command. Before Abraham could sacrifice his son, however, God provided a lamb to sacrifice instead. In commemoration of this intervention, animals are sacrificed ritually. One third of their meat is consumed by the family offering the sacrifice, while the rest is distributed to the poor and needy. Sweets and gifts are given, and extended family are typically visited and welcomed.[6] The day is also sometimes called Big Eid or the Greater Eid.[7][8]

**Compare the origin of this account as recorded in:**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Adha#Origin>

A careful comparison of the above account with what is recorded in the Bible or in the Jewish Torah shows fundamental differences which affect the claims of these two/three major religions (Islam, Judaism, Christianity) as to which one is valid. The differences have led to serious religious, political and cultural consequences resulting in conflicts and wars that have lasted through centuries of fighting between the parties concerned.

A decision as to which is right is very important and fundamental as it leads to which claim has a right to the inheritance of the Promised Land. With which of Abraham’s descendants was God’s covenant made? – his descendants through **Isaac** or through **Ishmael**? This accounts for the endless conflicts between the Jewish and Islamic nations right through the centuries over which one has the right to the Promised Land?

What do you think? **REFLECT**

1. Both the above accounts are based on their respective religious scriptures. The reliability of the account is therefore based on the reliability and authenticity of the holy scriptures of each religion. Are the scriptures they believe in God’s Word or just traditions passed down from one generation to another even if each claims to be a revelation from God to His prophets concerning His Will.

A reasonable test of such scriptural validity, authenticity, authority, and reliability is to submit the Old Testament scriptures to a test concerning the first coming of the Messiah. Were the prophesies concerning His coming to earth fulfilled? They can always be checked from the pages of the New Testament, History and the findings of Archaeology.

Jesus Himself claimed and challenged the people of His time –

**Luke 24:25-27 (NRSV)**

*Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures.*

**Luke 24:44-45 (NKJV)**

*Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

Finally, be like the Brethren in Berea: Acts 17:10-11 (NKJV)

*Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea…These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and* ***searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so****.*

 **REFLECT**

**Points to Ponder:**  *The best* ***P****roof of Scripture is the Fulfilment of its* ***P****rophecies*

 *validated by History and Archaeology.*