

# Advent Readings Day 8

Now Abraham had a son in his old age whom he loved with deep affection. Isaac was the joy and delight of Abraham's heart, but more than that, he fulfilled God's great promise. God came to Abraham one day with a test. "Abraham, take your son, your only son Isaac, the delight of your eyes, to a place I will show you and offer him there as a sacrifice to me."

Abraham did not deny the word of God. He knew in his heart Isaac was the blessing of God. He knew the whole of the world would be blessed through the offspring of Isaac. He knew that God was faithful. So he took his son, his servants, donkeys, and provisions for the journey and went to the mountain God indicated. The father came to the foot of the mountain and left his servants behind with these words, "We will go to the mountain to worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham knew God could raise the dead and fully expected to receive his son back before the day's end.

The father and son marched up the hill. Isaac noted to his father there was no sacrifice to offer. "The Lord will provide," answered the elder. At the top of the mountain, the father built an altar of stones and, with a broken heart, bound his son and laid him thereon. As Abraham raised the knife to slay his son, a voice rang out. "Abraham, Abraham. Stay your hand. I see that you fear God. Look there in the thicket." Abraham hurried to the bush and found a ram caught by his horns. Isaac would not die this day. An offering had been supplied by God. The story rings eerily similar to the one in Genesis 3 and the first sinners.

Abraham named the mountain "On the mount of the Lord it will be provided." Several millennia later, on this very mountain, God would provide an offering again for the people of the world. It would be this very mountain on which our savior, Jesus, would be crucified.

And so the people of faith are called sons of Abraham. Heirs of the promise. We who believe in God's provision for salvation in Jesus have been spared, and Christ has died on our behalf.

A ram in a thicket on a specific mountain was a signpost echoing across the ages, setting the stage for Christ, our Redeemer. On the mount of the Lord, IT HAS BEEN provided.