

# Prophecy or Deluded Filicide

Genesis 22:1 - 14

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## INTRODUCTION

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### PARABLE – PROPHECY OR DELUDED FILICIDE

The thought of listening to the small still voice of God telling you to kill your child to atone for your sins, WHAT! What are we to do with this story?

Is it a prophecy; outlining the extreme measures required to atone for the fallen ness of human kind, requiring nothing but sacrifice of our very own flesh and blood.

Perhaps Abraham in his old age was struggling to separate out serving God the creator and the need of atonement for sin, from the pagan rituals going on around him. Had mental illness clouded his moral compass at this point. Sacrificing children was a current practice amongst pagan groups to appease the Gods in times of calamity. We are still unsure if the prohibition of child sacrifice as being abhorrent to God in Deuteronomy was required to banish the practice from some Jewish cults at the time.

Or

Is this a parable from the earliest part of the Bible already starting to outline the God that we know through Jesus?

- Where in all our brokenness and wrongness of actions,
- God in his forgiving graciousness steps in.
- His own become flesh and blood, "the lamb"
- or in this case the Ram, - perhaps indicates a strength that resonates more with the understanding at the time of how God would come in to the world.
- The Ram a gift from god caught up in the thistles of the world, the difficult, prickly, unitedness of our everyday.
- This Ram just appears into the story from nowhere, right when our hearts are in our throats, the child is bound and tied at the altar, isolated in a secret mountain location, the knife is drawn, hope is lost
- Then God cries out STOP this is all wrong..... true faith is rewarded.
- Your sacrifice however great, however faithful, only atones for the sins of yourself and your family in the past to the present
- Here the Ram entangled in the world is a gift from God and a worthy sacrifice, so worthy as to mark the birth of a great nation built on Gods provision of the sacrificial lamb/ram.

Much to ponder on

## MESSAGE

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### ABRAHAM'S STATE OF MIND

[How do we engage with Abrahams understanding of our God?](#)

This is the same Abraham and Sarah, thought barren, only through the grace of God blessed with a child in their old age. This is that same child as a young teen. What god has given he asks for back? Has Abraham discussed this with Sarah, after a life time without child, how could Sarah fathom not just losing her son, but to have his father take him camping never to bring him back.

[Bi polar, perhaps?](#)

Ritualistic killing is not part of who we are, it is not part of our life experience. So at this point if you are like me it wouldn't matter how loud that voice of God was. Do we start to think at this point that Abrahams mind is having troubled thoughts, has his rational judgement left him.

What mind would give their child that we might live....

## Abraham and Isaacs relationship moving forward

The image I chose for the screen is one of the boy and his much older father setting off up the mountain. The boy a young teen, arms full of wood, his father with the special sacrificing knife and a torch of fire, on an adventure. The son being invited to participate in this religious ritual with his father. Leaving behind the servants that had come with them to the edge of the mountain. What did the servants know at this point, did they stand by without word, close their eyes to what was going on?

How do you think the father son conversation went from the point that Isaac realised he and his father had everything for a sacrifice, everything except the sacrifice? As they walked up the mountain together as father and son, where did Isaacs mind go as he walked up the mountain alongside his father as the reality of what his father believed he had to do sank in. What thoughts were churning over in Abraham as his son realized.

Up the mountain how did it play out, Isaac watching his father build the altar, preparing the fire wood. A father binding his son, both knowing what was to happen. Hope lost?

Then according to the story God rescues the day, Isaac is cut free instead of having his throat cut. To help his father free the Ram and carry out the sacrifice to God.

But what now of the mental state of Isaac, Abraham is praised by God for being prepared to carry out the ultimate sacrifice. Yet Isaac is left at the end of the story having seen his own death at the hands of his father, yet for the hand of God. What of the relationship between father and son now, trust, how even in ancient society do you come back from that place.

## CONCLUSION

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Many of the commentaries suggest that this story was part of the old testaments efforts to separate God from connection with Filicide. These questions are not stretching the story past its intentions, they are part of defining the very moral core of God and what we believe. Allowing Abraham to move through all the motions, constricted with the knowing that he only had Isaac by the grace of God and God was asking for him back. His devout faith challenges our faith all the way through the story, right to the altar. Then right at the last God steps in with a glimpse of the promise, now realized by us, not anything we could do but him.

Our emotions are taken to the edge, a moral code on the sanctity of life is set, and the grace of God is the way forward