

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

Volume 2, Issue 9

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Today's Word: binding

February 26, 2006

Lesson 9: "God will Provide Himself a Lamb"

Are You:

- Being Faithful and Obedient in Your Own Life?
- Reading Scriptures Daily?
- Having Family Home Evening?
- Doing Your Home or Visiting Teaching?

Next Week

Lesson 10:

"Birthright Blessings:
Marriage in the Covenant"

Genesis 24-29

W.W. Austin, Gospel Doctrine Teacher
wendywarrenaustin@hotmail.com
<http://ideawarehouse.blogspot.com>

Questions to Ponder

- What are some similarities between Abraham's experience and Heavenly Father's? What is the greatest difference?
- What can we learn from Abraham and Isaac about faith and obedience?

Elder 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" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1992, 51; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 37).

How
Will We Fare
When
We are Tested?



The Most Difficult Choice

Who is more important to you? —God or your kid(s)?

Ever since I became a parent, I realized with a clarity that I never had before, how incredibly difficult it had to have been for God to have sacrificed "his only begotten Son" for us to have eternal life. Yet he loved us THAT much! The story of Isaac and Abraham brings us the foreshadowed story of the Atonement and Resurrection so we can more fully appreciate the sacrifice our Heavenly Father made with his precious Son. Today's lesson will explore the many parallels between Isaac and Jesus Christ and between Abraham's willingness and obedience to do what God commanded and God's willingness to do what was necessary to enable the Savior, his only Son, to serve as the sacrificial lamb for us, whom he loves as much as (MORE THAN!) Abraham loved Isaac.—VWVA

Jewish tradition refers to the binding of Isaac episode (Gen. 22:1-19) as the Akedah. Although the traditional interpretation of the story is of blind obedience to God, religious scholars still debate the problematic nature of the Akedah because the story raises many questions of obedience, ethics, faithfulness, father/son relationships, cultural tradition, even child abuse. However, the eternal truth of the Abraham/Isaac story as a prefigurement of God's sacrifice of his Son makes all other understandings incomplete.

Sources Worth Investigating Further:

- Elder Dallin H. Oaks, "Bible Stories and Eternal Protection," *Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 37.
- Malcolm E. Schrader, "The Akedah Test: What Passes and What Fails," *Jewish Bible Quarterly* 32.4 (2004): 251-258.
- Andrew C. Skinner, "Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament," *Ensign*, June 2002, 24.
- Carol B. Thomas, "Sacrifice: An Eternal Investment," *Ensign*, May 2001, 63.

