

Aqedah: The Binding of Isaac – Genesis 22

Narrator	¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him,
God	"Abraham!"
Abe	"Here am I."
God	² "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."
Narrator	³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men,
Abe	"Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."
Narrator	⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham,
Isaac	"My father!"
Abe	"Here am I, my son."
Isaac	"Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"
Abe	⁸ "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."
Narrator	So they went both of them together.
	⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said,
Yahweh's Messenger	"Abraham, Abraham!"
Abe	"Here am I."
Messenger	¹² "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."
Narrator	¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said,
Messenger "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."
Narrator ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Context:

What significant things happen in Abe's life leading up to this?
Why is this "test" highlighted?
Does Abe realize this is a test?
What do you make of the way God expresses the "test"?
How does Abe respond (what does he DO? what does he SAY?) and why?

Dialog

What does Isaac "get" and "not get"?
What did Abe mean by his reply "Yahweh will see to it"?
If you were directing the filming of this, how would you direct Abe's and Isaac's body language?

The Test

Who was being tested?
What would have happened had Abe balked or refused?
What is the connection between this and Abe's response to Sodom & Gomorrah?
How did the test turn out?

(adapted from Reuven Kimelman)