**Designed by Love: First Love Archive**

**First time love is mentioned in the Bible. In the OT**

**Genesis 22:1–14**

1 **After these things** God tested Abraham (*after what things?)*

*Genesis 17:15–19*

*15 And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” 19 God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.*

*God had promised Abraham a son earlier and when it didn’t come he acted on his own and had a son with Sarahs servant named Hagar and named him Ishmael who was a child of the flesh not promise*

*God had two sons: Adam and Jesus both called s/Son of God, one of flesh, one of promise*

1 After these things God **tested** Abraham and said to him, “**Abraham**!” And he said, “**Here I am**.”

2 He said, “**Take your son**, **your only son Isaac**, **whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, (*temple was built and Jerusalem stands today*) and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

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 (*imagine as he cut the wood*) 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, “Stay here with the donkey; **I and the boy will go over there** and **worship** and **come again to you.”** (*How could be possibly believe they would both return*)

*Hebrews 11:17–19*

*17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19* ***He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead****, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back*.

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**.** (*father and son*)

7 And Isaac said to his father **Abraham, “My father**!” And he said, “**Here I am, my son**.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering**?”

8 Abraham said, “**God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son**.”(*but from where, trusted*) So they went both of them together. (*father and son*)

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, “**Abraham, Abraham!**” And he said, “**Here I am**.”

12 He said, “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**.”

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.**”

*In Matthew it’s not until Chp.5, in Mark Chp.10, in Luke Chp.6 but in John its Chp.3*

*The First Time we see love spoken in the Gospels is:*

*John 3:16 “For* ***God so loved the world****, that* ***he gave his only Son****, that* ***whoever believes*** *in him should*

 *not perish but have eternal life.*

* As God had tested Abraham He Himself knew He would one day be faced with the extreme dilemma of what it would take to rescue His own sons and daughters.
* As Abraham said “**Here I am”** stating his position in the moment,
	+ So God the Father in another place said, “I am” stating His position in all of time and eternity.
* As Abraham **rose early** to go to the mount, the place where the most painful event of his life would occur,
	+ So the Father created a mount from the foundation of the world, that He knew would be the place where the most painful but also the greatest event off all time would happen.
* As Abraham **saddled his donkey** for his son to ride to the place where he would be offered,
	+ So the Son of God rode a donkey to Jerusalem, the place where He would soon be offered.
* As Abraham **brought two men** with him to the mountain as witnesses,
	+ So God the Father brought two men with Him, Moses and Elijah to the mount as witnesses when Jesus was transfigured and knew His destiny was soon at hand. Where He spoke the words: “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased…”
* As Abraham **prepared the** **wood** for the sacrifice of his only son,
	+ So God the Father prepared the seed that He knew would become the tree, that would become the wood, that would be made into the cross where His Son would hang and die. (*can you imagine*)
* As Abraham looked and saw the place on the **third day**, he knew it was here his life was going to change forever,
	+ So God the Father knew there would be a third day when an event would take place that would change the course of history for all of humanity for all of eternity.
* As Abraham placed the wood **on the back of his only son**,
	+ So God the Father carefully orchestrated even through the evil motives of wicked men that the wooden cross would be placed on the back of His only Son.
* As Abraham took the **fire and the knife** to the place he had been told,
	+ So also God the Father brought the fire of judgment and the instrument of death to the place.
* As Isaac **questioned his father about the sacrifice** and Abraham said “**the Lord will provide a Lamb**”,
	+ So Jesus questioned His Father as He knelt on the Mount of Olives in the garden that night and asked His Father if there might possibly be any other way.
* As Abraham raised the knife to complete the sacrifice but was stopped by the twice calling of his name “**Abraham Abraham**”
	+ So also God the Father heard the twice calling of His name but from His only Son as He cried My God, My God, why have you forsaken me!
* As Abraham was **commanded to stop** before he went through with the act of killing his only son;
	+ So God the Father chose to move forward and witnessed the judgment of sin and penalty of death consume His only Son.
* As Abraham was fortunate enough that day that **the Lord provided for Him a ram** to sacrifice instead of his only son’ whom He loved;
	+ So you and I are fortunate enough that God the Father **loved us so much** that **He provided the Lamb**, His only Son, whom He loves, and went through with the sacrifice, on Mount Calvary, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world.

**Conclusion**

Why did God do all of this?

* **So we would know the very first time He ever recorded the word love, He had you and me in mind.**