GOD PROVIDES THE SACRIFICE

Genesis 22 is one of the most moving chapters of Scripture; it recounts the story of the Binding of Isaac, as Abraham is commanded to take his son and offer him as a sacrifice on an altar on Mount Moriah.

This must have been an agonizing task for Abraham, as he is called to offer his beloved son, the one for whom he had so long waited, the one on whom all his future hopes rested.

The narrative is told slowly, with painstaking detail, heightening the tension and the growing sense of tragedy. But, as tragic as this story could have been, we know what happens: Isaac is not offered as a sacrifice because God steps in and provides another sacrifice, a ram that had been caught in a thicket. The father did not have to witness the death of his beloved son.

We fast forward hundreds of years to a very similar mountain*, on another altar of sorts, where Jesus hangs on the cross. But this time, there is no alternative sacrifice; Jesus Himself *is* the alternative; the sacrifice provided by God (slain from the foundation of the world) to take the place of Isaac…to take the place of each of us.

In this instance, the Father did witness the death of His beloved Son. God Himself is the sacrifice, absorbing the darkness of the world into Himself.

Let's pray together for the bread and fruit of the vine.

*Scholars debate the relative locations of Mount Moriah and Golgotha, but many believe them to be the same place.

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