

Abraham Tested

22: 1-19

Approximately 38 years had passed since **ADONAI** first made promises to **Abraham** when he was 75 years old. This chapter brings us to the mountaintop of **Genesis**. It, along with **Psalm 22** and **Isaiah 53**, describe the significance of Calvary, or **the Skull**, maybe more clearly than any passage in the B'rit Chadashah: **When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there (Luke 23:33a)**. It is the only type in the TaNaKh that revealed the necessity for a *human sacrifice* to pay the price for sin. Because man had sinned, a man, not an animal, must be sacrificed, that divine justice would be satisfied. This could hardly be *any man*; **God's own Son** was the only **One**.³⁵¹

The names of **God** are important in this section. When the chapter starts out, it is **Elohim**, *the God of righteousness*, who speaks when **He** asks **Avraham** to take **Isaac** (Hebrew: **Yitz'chak**) and **sacrifice him as a sin offering on Mount Moriah (22:2)**. However, when **God** provides a substitute for **Isaac**, it is **ADONAI**, *the God of mercy and redemption* who speaks.