

In Jeremiah 19:6 God said “They have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons...something I did not command...nor did it enter my mind.” However, God did command/request Abraham to offer up his son Isaac to him. Although it was a test to Abraham but it was in God’s mind?

Men had become so wicked¹—God never imaged the depths of their evil (Jer 19:4).

In Genesis 22:1-2 God had commanded Abraham to offer up his son Isaac as a burnt offering. In obedience, Abraham headed toward the land of Moriah (v. 3).

When Isaac asked, “Father? ... Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” V 7; Abraham answered “God will provide a lamb, my son.” V 8. Isaac then allowed Abraham to bind him as an offering on the alter (v. 9-10). Then, God indeed provided a substitute (v 11-24).² Abraham was commanded to offer a ram from the thicket (v. 11-13) rather than his son--his one and only son (Ge 22:2).³

God is the giver of life (Ac 17:28, 29)—he alone can rightfully take life.

Abraham became father of many nations and peoples who would put their trust in God (Ge 22:15–19, He 11). Faithful believers like Abraham precede law-keepers into heaven (Re 20:6). The law was never able to save anyone (Gal 3:24, 25). Men have always come to salvation in the same way; which is by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9).

The prophet Jeremiah’s message serves as a warning to any evil nation who sins against God. They, too, could be destroyed like Judah.

Christians work to turn back the tides of evil (Eccl 10:2, Jn 10:10). As Jeremiah wept for his people in his day; believers today also grieve for their respective lands (Ps 119:158, Ro 10:1–4).

Christians should continue to speak out for those who cannot speak (Pr 31:8, GWT) in the hopes that they can spare the innocent from staggering toward their slaughter (Pr 24:11b).

¹ Jeremiah lived during a time so evil; that God had commanded him not (Jer 16:1-9) to: marry or have children (16:1–4), mourn for Judah (16:5–7) or fellowship with them (16:8–9). Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Je 16:1–9). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Abraham knew God’s character and surmised that he himself would provide the sacrifice (v. 8). He was correct.

³ God said this to make a point. He often places a salvation message into the pages of scripture. Abraham, in fact, had another son—one, who in this matter would not be acknowledged (Gen. 17:20–22; Gal. 4:22–31)