

Year-End Giving Update

Through December 31

December
Goal

\$490,000.00

Amount
Received

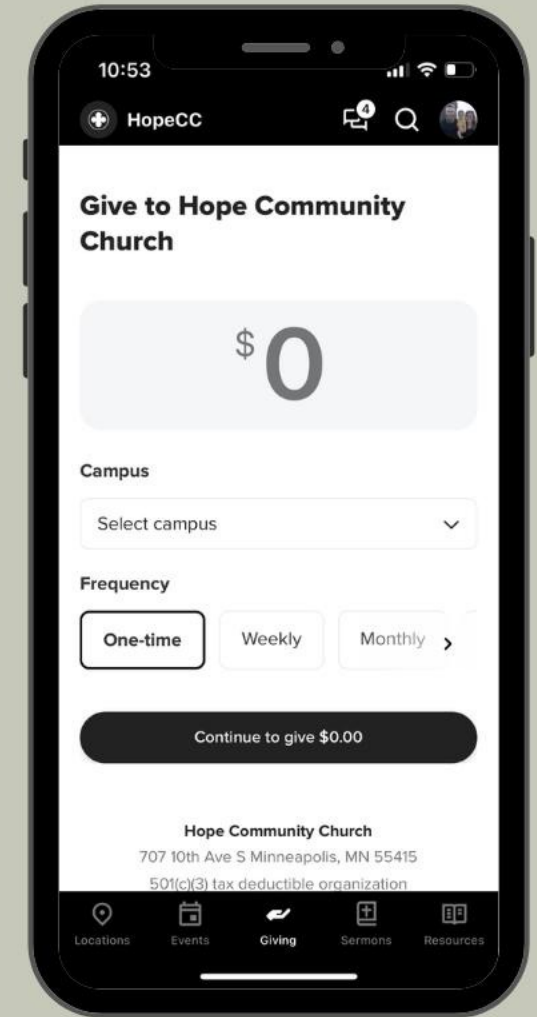
\$91,384

% received

18.65%



GIVING
HOPECC.COM/GIVING
(or in the Hope App)





Born Unto Us



A close-up photograph of a person's hands placing a vintage photograph into a spiral-bound photo album. The album is open, showing several other photographs already in place. The photos depict various scenes, including people and outdoor settings. The album has a light-colored, textured cover and a metal spiral binding on the right side. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor setting.

**Three albums of the
birth and sacrifice of Isaac**

~ Genesis 22

Abraham



Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

²But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

⁴Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” ⁵He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Abraham

Genesis 16:15-17:2

¹⁵So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ²I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.¹⁰

¹¹The angel of the LORD¹¹ also said to her:

"You are now with child and you will have a son.^c You shall name him^d Ishmael,^e for the LORD has heard of your misery.^f

¹²He will be a wild donkey^g of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward^h all his brothers.^h"

¹³She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me,"ⁱ for she said, "I have now seen^j the One who sees me."ⁱ ¹⁴That is why the well^k was called Beer Lahai Roi^l; it is still there, between Kadesh^m and Bered.

¹⁵So Hagarⁿ bore Abram a son,^o and Abram gave the name Ishmael^p to the son she had borne. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old^q when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

The Covenant of Circumcision

¹⁷When Abram was ninety-nine years old,^r the LORD appeared to him^s and said, "I am God Almighty^t; I walk before me and be blameless.^u ²I will confirm my covenant between me and you^v and will greatly increase your numbers.^w"

³Abram fell facedown,^x and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you:^y You will be the father of many nations.^z ⁵No longer will you be called Abram^z; your name will be Abraham,^{aa} for I have made you a father of many nations.^b ⁶I will make you very fruitful;^c I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.^d ⁷I will establish my covenant^e as an everlasting covenant^f between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God^g and the God of your descendants after you.^h ⁸The whole land of Canaan,ⁱ where you are now an alien,^j I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you;^k and I will be their God."^l

⁹Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant,^m and your descendants after you for the generations to come.ⁿ ¹⁰This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to

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16:100

keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.^o ¹¹You are to undergo circumcision,^p and it will be the sign of the covenant^q between me and you.
¹²For the generations to come^r every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised,^s including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring.^t ¹³Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised.^u My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.^v ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised^w in the flesh, will be cut off from his people;^x he has broken my covenant.^y
¹⁵God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai^z your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.^{aa} ¹⁶I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her.^{ab} I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations;^{ac} kings of peoples will come from her."^{ad} ¹⁷Abraham fell facedown;^{ae} he laughed^{af} and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"^{ah} ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael^{ai} might live under your blessing!"^{aj}
¹⁹Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son,^{ak} and you will call him Isaac.^{al} I will establish my covenant with him^{am} as an everlasting covenant^{an} for his descendants after him.^{ao} And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers.^{ap} He will be the father of twelve rulers,^{aq} and I will make him into a great nation.^{ar} ²¹But my covenant^{as} I will establish with Isaac,

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13 years pass

promise (16:8)

FATHER of NATIONS

CLEARER of all!

111 Ishmael means God hears. 112 Or live to the east / of 113 Or seen the back of 114 Beer Lahai Roi means well of the Living One who sees me. 115 Hebrew El-Shaddai 116 Abram means exalted father. 117 Abraham means father of many. 118 Isaac means he laughs.

¹⁵So Hagarⁿ bore Abram a son,^o and Abram gave the name Ishmael^p to the son she had borne. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old^q when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

The Covenant of Circumcision

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old,^r the LORD appeared to him^s and said, "I am God Almighty^x; ^twalk before me and be blameless."^u ²I will confirm my covenant between me and you^v and will greatly increase your numbers."^w

³Abram fell facedown,^x and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my

28:9
16:16
qS Ge 12:4
17:1 rS Ge
sS Ge 12:7
tGe 28:3; 30:9
43:14; 48:3;
49:25; Ex 6:3
Ru 1:20;
Job 5:17; 6:7
22:21; 33:14
36:16; Isa 1:10
Joel 1:15; M
uS Ge 5:22;
Dt 18:13; 10:1
9:4; Job 1:1
Ps 15:2; 18:23
78:72; 101:5
17:2
vS Ge 15:1;
S 22:16-18
wS Ge 12:2
17:3 x ver
Ge 18:2; 19:1
33:3; Ex 18:27
Nu 14:5;

13 year
pass. →

(18)



God is never late, but rarely early.

— *Mother Teresa* —

Abraham

Malachi 4:1-2, 5-6

¹“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall... ⁵See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Christmas Reflections



Faithful, Failure and Hearing the Silence

The story revealed #1

Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Sarah



Sarah

Genesis 16:1-2

¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ²so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Sarah

Genesis 18:1-2, 8-15

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ²Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground...

⁹“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

Sarah

Genesis 18:1-2, 8-15

¹⁰Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

Sarah

Genesis 18:1-2, 8-15

¹³Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁵Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Sarah

Genesis 21:1-7

¹Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ²Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Christmas Reflections



God makes no sense... and then, He does!

The story revealed #2

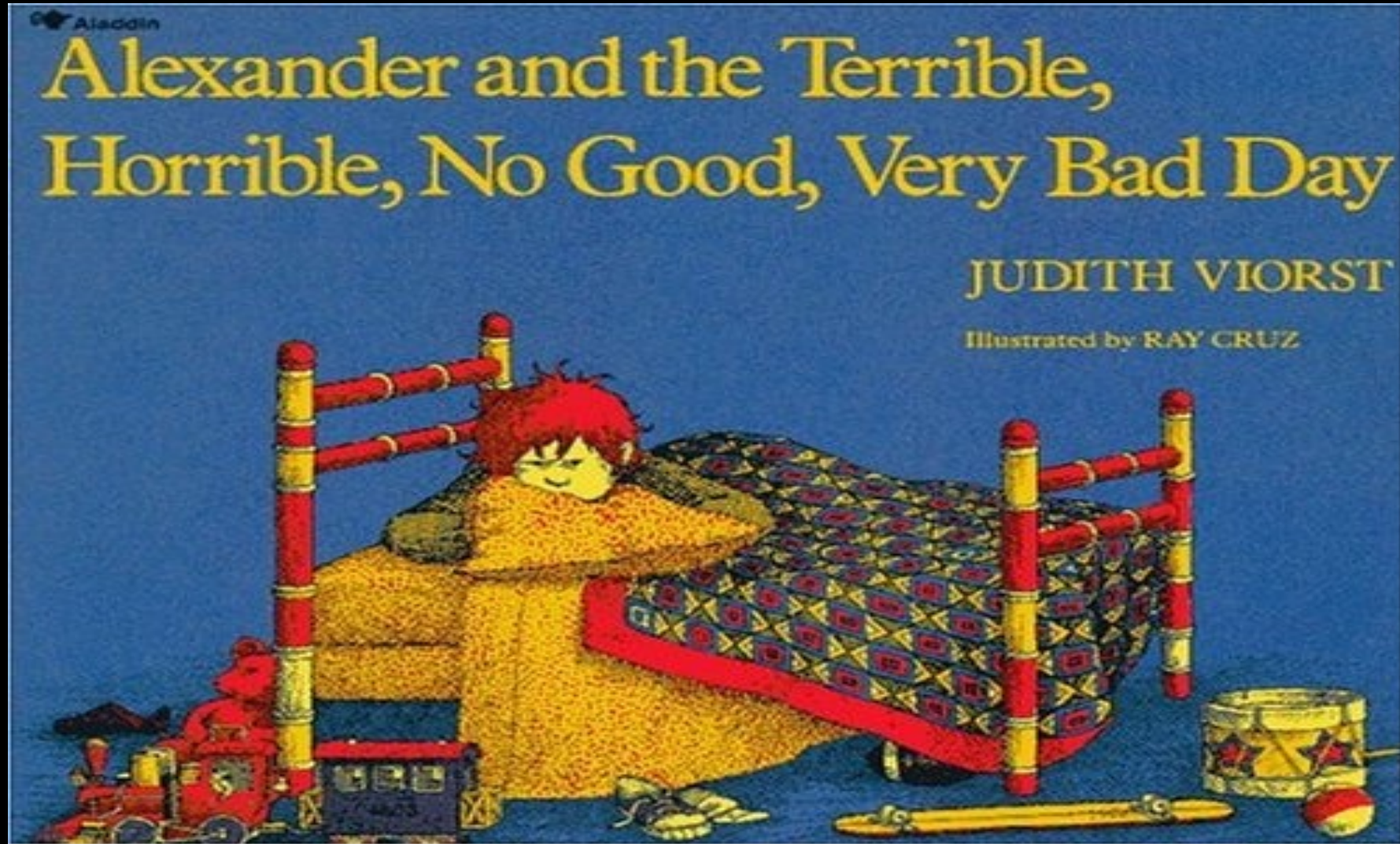
Hebrews 11:11

¹¹And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

Isaac



Isaac's Worst / Abraham's Best Day



The “Test”

Genesis 22:1-2

¹Some time later God tested Abraham.

He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

²Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah.

Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

The obedience of Abraham

Genesis 22:3-5

³Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

The question by Isaac

Genesis 22:6-7

⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife.

As the two of them went on together, ⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

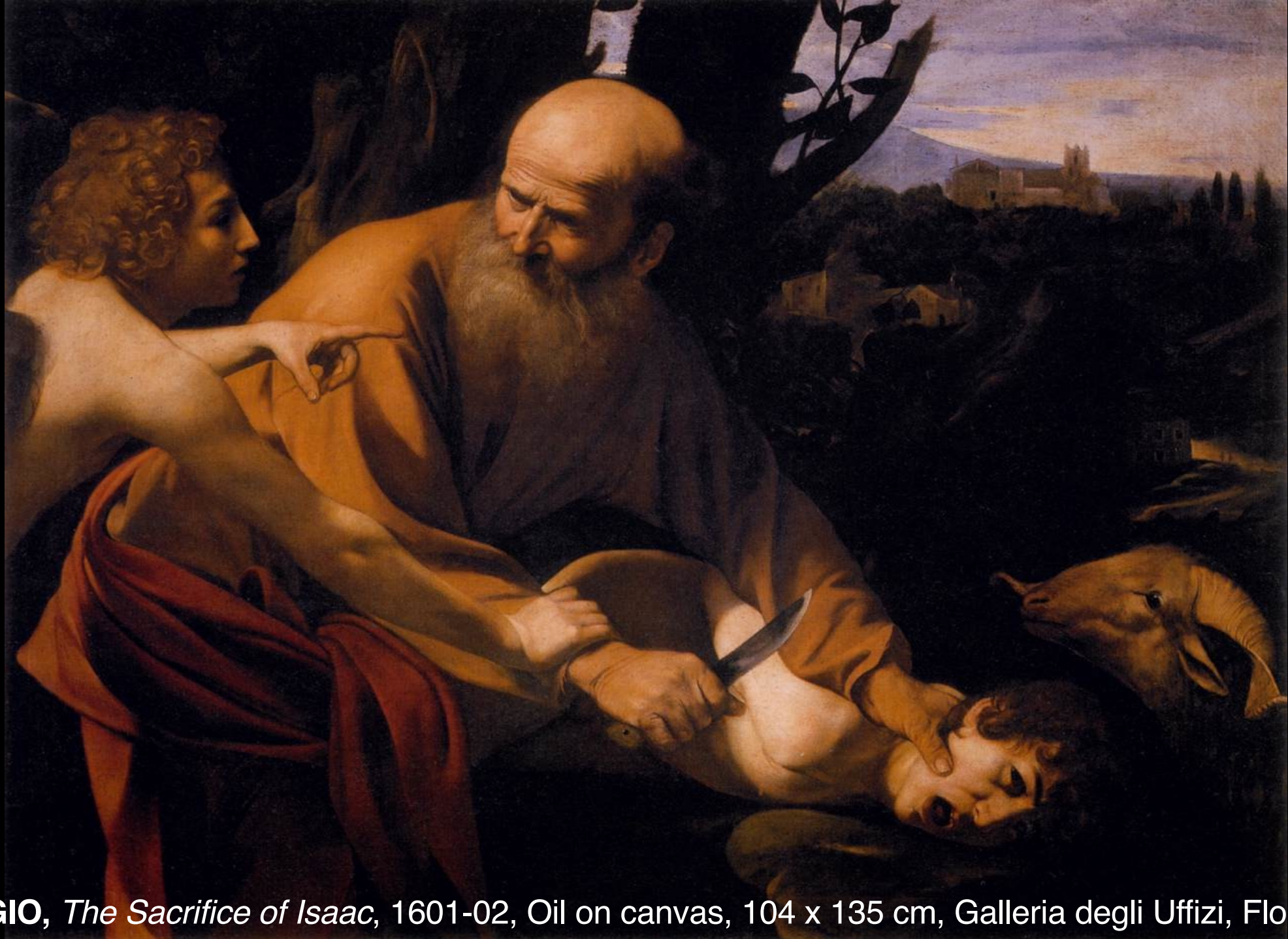
"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

The sacrifice

Genesis 22:8-10

⁸Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.



CARAVAGGIO, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, 1601-02, Oil on canvas, 104 x 135 cm, Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence

STOP!!!!

Genesis 22:11-12

¹¹But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven,
“Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹²“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

God did provide!

Genesis 22:13-14

¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." "

God oaths on his covenant

Genesis 22:13-14

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Christmas Reflections



God is a Master Storyteller (Maker!)

The story revealed #3

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice.

He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” [Genesis 21:12]

¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Read the Bible



Interpret the Bible

Interpret the Bible



Read the Bible





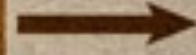
ISAAC



RAM



HUMANITY



CHRIST



Christ in Gethsemane, Heinrich Hofmann, 1886

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own
love for us in this:

While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.







COMMUNION



WORSHIP



PRAYER