

### *The Akedah or "Binding of Isaac"*

With our readings for next week we are at the very heart of the Genesis narrative. With this in mind I thought it might be useful to give you some questions to guide your reading:

1. pp. 111-124 are of secondary significance, you need not read this as carefully as pp. 125-142. But do note the role vision plays in the etiology of the cult site. The last three paragraphs (pp 123-124) nicely summarize some themes we looked at in our last session.
2. In light of pp. 36-42 and 125-42, whose son is Abraham commanded to sacrifice, his own or God's?
3. Why does Gen 12:1 look like 22:2?
4. What hints are there in Gen 22 of Isaac's agency?
5. Gen 22:15-18 looks like 12:1-3. Why is this the case?
6. Explain these two sentences on the bottom of 142: "One paradox of the aqedah is that it is Abraham's willingness to give up Isaac that insures the fulfillment of the promise that depends on Isaac. The other paradox is this: though Abraham does not give up his son through sacrifice, he gives him up nonetheless -- to the God who gave Isaac life, ordered him slaughtered, and finally grants him his exalted role in the divine plan."
7. Read the first paragraph of p. 200. What is the relation of Mark 1:11 to Gen 22:2?