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Different Faith Traditions in the Binding of Isaac

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Different Faith Traditions in the Binding of Isaac

The narrative of the binding of Isaac plays a critical role in faith traditions of Judaism, Christians and the Koran. While Abraham is crucial in the narrative, in Judaism tradition the narrative is presented in the Hebrew Bible, which comprises of Torah, the Prophets as well as the writings. Also, the story of Abraham is described in Genesis the first book in Torah. Similarly, the Hebrew bible in Christians is the Old Testament and thus to easily understand the narrative of Abraham, the letters of St. Paul are significant. Finally, based on the Koran understanding of the binding of Isaac is stipulated in the Qur'an and the Hadith. The paper will focus on different faith traditions including, Judaism, Christian and Muslim to comprehend the narrative of the binding of Isaac.

In Jewish tradition, the binding of Isaac is also known as the Akedah. During the pursuit of Jewish sacrifices, they appealed to Akedah as they offered themselves in the consecration of Kiddush ha-Shem. Based on the faith tradition of Judaism, Abraham is portrayed as a person who completely trusts God and obeys his instructions (Peters, 2018). Moreover, Abraham is recognized as the first Jew to maintain God's guidelines. Thus conventionally, Jews always view themselves as children of Abraham through Jacob his grandson and Isaac, his son. Abraham followed God's commands to sacrifice his only son Isaac which showed that he could give everything he has to God.

Another Judaism tradition linked with Akedah is the Rosh Hashanah. Jews always celebrate the Rosh Hashanah every year and Ram's horn (Shofar) is blown to symbolize the Ram that Abraham sacrificed to God during the Akedah (Peters, 2018). Furthermore, the blowing of the shofar is a means of recapping of God to Abraham's compliance and thus giving the children of Israel another year of life as well as defining the year that every person and the community will

experience. However, the intentions are closed within ten days on Yom Kippur. Also, in the Akedah narrative, the Jews submit themselves to God and admit that God has absolute privilege over their lives. Similarly, the Jews also believe that God can extend mercy on his people, the way he spared Isaac's life from being sacrificed by Abraham (Magpadnews, 2011). However, compassion is obtained after a person has followed God's commands hence in Jews tradition, there is faith in being forgiven and given another chance of living as long as they follow what God instructs and submit their life in serving him the same way Abraham did.

The Christian tradition views the binding of Isaac as having strong faith in God the same way Abraham had. St. Paul states that Abraham believed in God and hence termed as righteous encouraging the Christians to take Abraham as their forefather of all the believers at the same time spiritual father. Again, sacrificing Isaac on the altar is likened with crucifying Jesus Christ on the cross for the forgiveness of sins (Peters, 2018). In Christian tradition, the story of the binding of Isaac indicates how God works and thus the narrative portrays how God needed to have his son sacrificed for the sake of humanity the same way as the Ram which was provided by God to Abraham. Similarly, the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his only son that he loves is a prefigure of what was going to happen when God would sacrifice his only son whom he loved (Binding of Isaac ppt). Moreover, the Christian tradition indicates how Jesus and Isaac are ready for the sacrifice for God's command to be accomplished making Christians strengthen their faith and believe in God as well as giving their life for God's service.

The Koran has a similar view with the Jews on Abraham's demolition of idols on the commitment of one God. The Koran states that Abraham got angry for people worshipping false gods instead of Allah. Similarly, based on Islam traditions, Abraham was instructed by God in Surah to sacrifice his only son. The test was passed well by both Abraham and his son. In Islam

tradition, Abraham means submission to Allah because of the true faith he had towards God's commands (Binding of Isaac ppt). As a result, Abraham was referred to as a friend of God since the faith he presented was not based on the Jew or Muslim but was true faith dedicated to Allah. Also, Muslims should believe in Allah and follow his commands because those who have true faith will be messengers of Allah and be linked with the deeds of Abraham.

Another belief of Islam tradition is that Allah will protect those who have faith in him. For example, despite Abraham being instructed to sacrifice his son, he went without asking God questions. The Muslim tradition honors the narrative of the binding of Isaac in the Aid al-Adha ceremonies, where believers fast for a month. During Aid al-Adha, a ram, sheep, cow or camel is sacrificed and food given to the needy as well as those who could not afford hence marking the close of the Hajj journey to Mecca. Thus, Muslims follow the religion of Abraham as instructed by the Koran because he was obedient and a friend of God. Consequently, no one is expected to be better in faith than those who follow his steps.

In summation, as stated in the discussion above there exists various beliefs, traditions and faith of binding of Isaac based on Jews, Christians and Muslims. However, the religions share some between them despite the conflict that arises. Jews have a significant tradition of Rosh Hashanah to symbolize the importance of the Akedah. Similarly, Christians believe Abraham is their spiritual father for following God's commands and thus they should act like him. Finally, Muslims have conflicting arguments but consider Abraham as obedient as well as a friend of God and hence they will have true faith if they follow him.

References

Binding of Isaac ppt

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