

Haftarah Readings - For Week of February 9, 2017

Psalm 16

This Messianic psalm accentuates the comparison between Isaac and Christ in their unwavering trust in God. Specifically for both, their death was not final. For Isaac it was inflicted on the substitute ram. For Christ, he was resurrected from the grave.

Psalm 16:10 - "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Isaiah 33:7-16 + 22

The passage could refer to Isaac, who was simultaneously saved from being a whole burnt offering, and yet "coexisted" with it as the ram whose ashes were left on Mount Moriah.

Isaiah 33:14-16 - "Sinners are afraid in Zion; panic grips the godless. They say, 'Who among us can coexist with destructive fire? Who among us can coexist with unquenchable fire?' The one who lives uprightly and speaks honestly; the one who refuses to profit from oppressive measures and rejects a bribe; the one who does not plot violent crimes and does not seek to harm others - This is the person who will live in a secure place; he will find safety in the rocky, mountain strongholds; he will have food and a constant supply of water." (NET)

Isaiah 33:22 - "For the LORD, our ruler, the LORD, our commander, the LORD, our king - he will deliver us."

Judges 3:1-9 + 15

The passage seems to respond to God's sworn promise that "thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (Genesis 22:17) It portrays Israel forgetting this promise. Just as Abraham was tested by God, Israel here fails his test by coexisting with the Canaanites, intermarrying and falling into idolatry.

1 Kings 10:1-9 +23-24

Here, arriving as a ruler of a distant Gentile nation, the Queen of Sheba asks questions of Solomon, which he answers. Then she praises Solomon for his wisdom, ending with: "Because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice."

This is an example of the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Genesis

22:18)