for Abraham. If he had any reluctance in his mind, there is no evidence of it, because he got up early to set out on the required journey.

Most of us would verbally claim a willingness to do whatever God asks of us. We say we trust God fully, but when something especially difficult to obey arises, our claimed faith is put to a test. Abraham immediately made all the provisions necessary for total obedience, showing us that his faith was far more than verbal acclamation.

What were Abraham’s thoughts as he traveled? What conversations were held among the four of them? It was a trying time, but finally, on the third day, Abraham looked ahead and saw the dreaded destination.

**Settled determination (Gen. 22:5-6).** Abraham told the two young men to stay behind while he and Isaac went to the mountain to carry out the sacrifice. His statement to them is extremely significant. After instructing them to remain there with the donkey, Abraham said, “I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.” He said both of them would return.

So far Abraham had not revealed to Isaac what was actually going to take place on that mountain. He simply moved through the required motions to accomplish a sacrifice.

**A DECISIVE APPEARANCE OF GOD—Gen. 22:7-14**

**Isaac’s question (Gen. 22:7-8).** This is the only recorded conversation that took place during the trip to the mountain where God sent Abraham.

Isaac then expressed his concern. He noticed they had what they needed to get the fire started on the altar and that they had the wood to keep that fire going. Both of these were necessary items for a sacrifice. The only problem was they had no lamb to offer, and since they were heading to a mountain and a place where presumably there were no sacrificial animals, Isaac wondered how they were going to actually have a sacrifice.

Abraham still did not explain to Isaac what he was going to do, but his response was probably reassuring. He said God would provide a lamb for Himself. Abraham’s reply was also a reflection on his confidence that God would do what was right, no matter how hard that might prove to be.

Without realizing it, Abraham had chosen words that foreshadowed the coming of the Lamb of God who would pay for the sins of mankind. No human being could ever possibly pay for anyone else’s sins; his own sin would render him disqualified. It would take a sinless person to make that payment; therefore, God had to provide Himself a sacrifice by sending His own Son to die in the place of sinners.

**Isaac’s submission (Gen. 22:9-10).** Upon arrival at the designated place, Abraham took a series of methodical steps to fulfill what God had commanded.

There is no indication that any kind of struggle took place. Isaac was not a small child, so he could have resisted with force. After all, he was strong enough to have carried the load of wood up that mountain. The implication must be that he submissively allowed Abraham to tie him up and lay him down on that pile of wood.

The author of Hebrews explains, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (11:17-19). Abraham knew God had to keep His promise about his heir, so he believed that if he killed Isaac,