

**Reviews of Baker Academic books
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MIDDLETON, J. RICHARD, *Abraham's Silence: The Binding of Isaac, the Suffering of Job, and How to Talk Back to God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021), pp. xvi + 256. \$26.99 (paperback or e-book). ISBN 978-0-8010-9801-7 (paperback), 978-1-4934-3088-8 (e-book).

M. argues that Abraham's silent obedience to God's command to sacrifice Isaac is not a paradigm to be followed. He examines the legitimacy of protest to God in the psalms of lament, the prophets (including Moses) and, in an extensive discussion, the book of Job, before studying the text of the Aqedah where, in contrast to Abraham's challenge to God over the fate of the inhabitants of Sodom, Abraham remains silent. He identifies a number of thematic and intertextual links between the Aqedah and Job and argues that both are in fundamental agreement about the validity of protest to God. Reading the Aqedah in the context of the Abraham narrative as a whole, noting what is said and what is omitted, M. holds that Abraham is not being tested for unquestioning obedience, but rather for his discernment of God's character. From the dialogue over Sodom, Abraham should have learnt that God is merciful and encourages protest. Abraham's silence over God's command to sacrifice his son Isaac is tragic. Unlike Job, he did not pass the test, missing the opportunity to vigorously lament. This radical challenge to the traditional view of the Aqedah deserves to be taken seriously.

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