

Sermon TELEOLOGICAL SUSPENSION OF THE ETHICAL?  
[This is Sunday before but not of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend]

[CHECK YOUR BIBLE, jww, AND FIND OTHER SERMONS ON THIS  
TEXT...1962, 1968, and 1985.]

Genesis - Sacrifice of Isaac

Did Abram have a “mandate from heaven”?

[Had his name change been done at this time?]

Did George Bush a “mandate from heaven” to invade Iraq?

Sense of “American Exceptionalism” needs to be overcome.

Do NCH song about “other nations skies just a blue”

Cf. “With God on Our Side” and “Masters of War” by Bob Dylan

Sense that we have license to bomb or drone plane anywhere in world

That we are okay w/ atomic weapons but no other

That our motives are pure

JW tell truth about military: purpose is to kill – to protect freedom, etc. is at best a stretch of credulity

Israel/Jewish people considered a “chosen” people but chosen not for honor and privilege but service and responsibility. If responsible, we’d do more than 1/10 of 1 percent for international aid, which, according to report is one of the places where Americans would “cut spending.”

Bruggeman on “exceptional” says it applies to triumphalist churches and to Israel

New England Cong’l ministers would give “Jeremiads” on election days and other public holidays. They were *expected* to mix religion and politics.

I would like to say something helpful (take away something) to people.

Two things might be in order

1. You’re not exceptional. *One ought not to think more highly of the self...* You/we/I am prone to self-deception and sin

Cf. my desk reminder card:

“Life is hard, You are going to die, You are not that important, You are not in control, and Your life is not about you.”

2. You may be responsible

Cf. HRN and Ethic of Response

You can’t control world but you can control your reaction

(Maybe a case for being contemplative—watching were the soul goes and then deciding how you want to act.

Wanna make use of “God will provide *himself* as the sacrifice” idea in this sermon?  
Message of Jesus Christ: **NO MOVE VIOLENCE!** Rene Girard idea.

In Ukrainian Orthodox Church or somewhere I had this thought about “**TRANSFORMATION**” as purpose of Christian Church but **how hard it is to change one’s mind**, much less that of a whole country. I struggled this Lent simply to stop swearing “SOB” and, instead, say “Dis-appointed!”

## OUTLINE OF SERMON

### Intro

-New preacher and critique... “Pay not attention—he just repeats.”

On that pulpit a March Sunday a year ago I had a kidney stone passing attack and was in -ER of Penrose when Derek Krehbeil uttered my best line in that sermon that I “felt sorry for atheists because when they have an orgasm they have no body to cry out to”!

-Texas rancher invaded by DEA who showed a badge and said it allowed him to go anywhere he wanted to and nobody could stop him. Went into field with Brahma bull who started chasing him. Rancher yelled out “Show him your badge!”

**Sacrifice of Isaac** story is a favorite of painters and sculptors and some poets but it is has no song in the hymnbooks given to it. It is an exceedingly gripping yet troublesome story. It raises the question:

Is there ever warrant for God for a person to do an immoral thing?

Would God ask a person to kill their own child?

Can there be a *religious* motivation to do an *ethical* wrong?

Are there special circumstances where universal law need to be abrogated?

Benj asked me to preach today and I asked “What is lectionary text?” Answer: Genesis 22: