



# Passing Life's Tests: Spiritual Reflections on The Trial of Abraham, The Binding of Isaac

*Rabbi Bradley Shavit, DHL Artson*

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Invites us to use this powerful tale as a tool for our own soul wrestling, to transcend its words to confront our own existential sacrifices and our ability to face—and surmount—life’s tests.

“Rabbi Artson takes Abraham’s test and through personal testimony and deep learning, teaches all of us crucial lessons about faith, learning and love.”

—Rabbi David Wolpe, Sinai Temple, Los Angeles; author, *Why Faith Matters*

“A book that belongs in every Jewish home. A treasure for all who long to make sense of the Torah’s most perplexing narrative. [It] masterfully offers us the tools we need to confront our deepest questions of faith with new eyes and a new understanding. This is a work we will return to over and over again, and with each reading we will emerge transformed.”

—Rabbi Naomi Levy, author, *Hope Will Find You*; spiritual leader, Nashuva: The Jewish Spiritual Outreach Center

“Draws poignantly and pointedly upon Rabbi Artson’s own life story as well as upon his vast Jewish and secular knowledge to illuminate and provide original explanations of a text that has been read and debated for millennia. In so doing, he offers the contemporary reader new insights into a controversial and ancient story, and ignites a passion for the wisdom inherent in Torah with his readers. This is an enriching book!”

—Rabbi David Ellenson, president, Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion

“Rabbi Artson has taken on the most challenging story in the Bible, the binding of Isaac, and has found valuable lessons for all of us in it.”

—Rabbi Harold Kushner, author, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

“Wouldn’t it be great to have a rabbi learned in Jewish texts who also has a sophisticated grasp of cutting-edge contemporary theology? While we are imagining, we might as well give this rabbi an uncanny ability to explain complex ideas in simple ways. And would it be too much to ask for the rabbi to also have a soul—a profound understanding of human beings and a hard-won personal faith? As you read this book, you will marvel at Rabbi Artson’s unique combination of gifts. More importantly, Rabbi Artson will accompany you—like a good rabbi should—while you consider the challenging questions arising from Abraham’s story, and your own.”

—Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, PhD, associate professor of religious studies; director, Department of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

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