

A Weekly Word

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This is a short reflection on **Genesis 22:1-14**, which was the focus of our worship service on June 28, 2026...

In verse 1 of this passage, we see that when God called to Abraham. Abraham's response to God was "here I am".

We often hear about Abraham's strong faith, and how it was credited to him as righteousness, or right standing with God.

I was inspired to take a closer look at Abraham. In Genesis 12:1-4, we read about the time when God originally called Abraham to follow Him. Those verses say, *"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"*

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran."

According to my research, Abraham was thought to be 113-137 years old at the time of our Genesis 22 reading. We can safely assume that meant that Abraham had lived a life of obedience to the Lord for about 40 years then.

In Genesis 12:2, God makes a promise to Abraham by telling him *"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."*

In the natural, that promise made no sense because Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were old and definitely past what would be considered 'child bearing age'. Also, Sarah was barren, and therefore, unable to bear children.

Despite their ages, and Sarah's barrenness, when Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 100 years old, she gave birth to their son, Isaac. This is confirmation of Matthew 19:26, which says, *"But Jesus looked at them [His disciples] and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"*

Then, In Genesis 22:1-14, we read about how God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering to Him. How can that be? Isaac is the son that God had promised him in Genesis 12. How could Abraham become the “father of many nations” that Romans 4:18 says he is, if Isaac is dead?

Ah, but this story isn’t over yet. Abraham was heartbroken over God’s request, but he was faithful to God by proceeding with making preparations to sacrifice Isaac, as God had requested.

As Abraham was about to proceed with sacrificing Isaac, we read in Genesis 22:11-14, *“But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”¹ as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”*

God had been testing Abraham, but ultimately God did not require that Isaac be sacrificed. Instead, God provided a ram. Abraham passed the test. He remained faithful to God, even under such emotionally challenging circumstances.

This is one example of the awesome things that God can do through our obedience to Him. He asks that we be available to Him, even when we can’t see the future. He can work through our availability, and if we are willing to trust Him, He will enable us to do amazing things that in our humanness alone, would be impossible.

My personal desire is that the next time God asks something of me, my response to Him will be “here I am.” Those 3 words can open the door to God doing miraculous things in our lives.

I hope you will join me on your own journey of faith. You won’t regret it.