

### Commentary from James Montgomery Boice ...

I quote from a study of this text by Donald Grey Barnhouse. “Abraham was surpassing Aristotle in the workings of his mind at this point. The fact that we are told that Abraham accounted that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead is the key to the story. Accounting is a mathematical logical procedure. As Abraham and Isaac had walked for three days through country growing more and more desolate, and at the slow, measured pace of the burdened mule, his mind went around and around the matter, and he ultimately came to the calm conclusion that he was going to see a miracle. The method of his thought was as follows. God is not a liar. He cannot be mistaken. He told me, beyond question, that I should have a son, and there he walks before me. God has said that this son would be the one through whom he would fulfill all of his promises. Therefore, the son must live or God would be found false. And yet God commands that this son be put to death. Here, humanly speaking, is contradiction. But there is no contradiction in God. That is the foundation fact. There is power in God; there is wisdom in God; there is majesty and glory in God; but there is no contradiction in God. But what is to be done with God’s command to sacrifice my son? Since there is no contradiction in God, there is only one answer that my mind can fathom. God is going to perform a miracle and raise Isaac from the dead. Doubt may say that this is foolish, that there has never been a resurrection in the history of the world. That doesn’t make any difference. A resurrection is compatible with the nature of God, but a contradiction is not compatible with the nature of God. God is life and the author of life. It would be a small matter for the God who created the universe, including the first man, to bring life back into a dead body. So the one, clear, logical conclusion is that God is going to raise Isaac from the dead.” [Boice, J. M. (1998). *Genesis: an expositional commentary* (p. 683). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.]



## Abraham, the Believer

### The Faith of Abraham

*Genesis 22*

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**QUESTION: What did faith look like in Abraham’s day?**

**QUESTION: What does faith look like in our day?**

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**1. The backdrop for the current episode of “Abraham’s World” ... 22:1a ...**

**“After these things” ... AFTER WHAT THINGS?**

- Chapter 19: Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Chapter 20: Abraham lying about Sarah and Abimelech taking Sarah into his harem.
- Chapter 21: Sarah finally having a son—Isaac—when Abraham was 100 years old. The contention between Sarah and Hagar.

The treaty with Abimelech.

**2. Abraham trusted God for his supernatural answer to his very unnatural dilemma, 22:1-12.**

- 1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide [Jehovah Jireh] for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

**Boice ...** Abraham named the place Jehovah Jireh, that is, “Jehovah will see to it,” as indeed he had. God had seen to Abraham’s problem. But since the tense of this name is future rather than past (“will see” rather than “saw”), Abraham was not merely thinking of his own past experience; he was also reflecting on the fact that it is God’s abiding character that prompts him to see to our problems and that at his appointed time he would undoubtedly provide for the great problem of sin. God would provide a Savior. [Boice, J. M. (1998). *Genesis: an expositional commentary* (p. 690). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.]

- 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the

**REVERENCE—A CRUCIAL ELEMENT TO TRUE FAITH!**

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.”

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**QUESTION**

What does this mean— **“for now I know that you fear God”?**

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- (Hebrews 11:17–19 ESV) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.
- 3. The LORD provided his supernatural answer in a very simple, natural way—a ram caught in a thicket by his horns, 22:13-18.**
- 13 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. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, **“The LORD will provide”**; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” 15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**CONCLUSION: Back to life ... 22:19.**

- 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.