

Abraham, Abraham

“And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I” (Genesis 22:11).

Since the introduction of cell phones in our society, I receive more calls than ever before. Yes, some of them are unnecessary, but I realize that people need someone to listen to them. Of course, I want my wife, daughters, and grandsons to keep in touch with me, and I enjoy my close friends calling me anytime they want to talk to me. It is also a handy way for all the pastors with whom I’m booked for meetings to reach me.

If I receive a call from a number with which I’m not familiar, and I am not available, I hardly ever return the call. I wait for them to call me again. However, if I receive several calls from someone in my family or from friends when I’m not available, I feel the need to return the call as soon as possible. It could be an emergency, and the repeated calls alarm me to those possibilities.

There are ten double-calls in the Bible, seven from God to men, and three involving other circumstances. In every occurrence, the double-call reveals the great significance and urgency of the matter at hand. For sure, God never repeats Himself just to be talking. He has something in mind that is of great concern. In the setting before us, we come to the first of these special calls—the double-call of Abraham.

The double-call to Abraham teaches us of God’s interest in His people! Having called Abraham from his idolatrous lifestyle, the Lord had already revealed His grace and love to him (see Genesis 12:1). In this crucial trial, however, He unveiled more of His love for the patriarch. With Abraham’s son, Isaac, facing death, the double-call magnifies the Lord’s great concern for His own. The God Who loves us proves His love in difficult situations.

The double-call to Abraham teaches us of God’s intimacy with His people! Denoting His personal relationship with His own, the Good Shepherd called His little sheep by name, “Abraham, Abraham.” It is also precious that the call came from “the angel of the Lord.” This designation, found on various occasions in the Old Testament, indicates that the eternal Son of God, the pre-incarnate Christ, called Abraham.

The double-call to Abraham teaches us of God’s intervention for men! The primary purpose of the divine call was to stop Abraham from offering his son as a burnt offering. God really didn’t want Abraham’s boy—He just wanted more of Abraham. Thus, observing the patriarch’s obedience, He intervened and provided a way of escape. The God Who leads us in a demanding path often intervenes for our good and for His glory.