

Sermon Outlines

Here I Am

*Isaiah 58:9 - "Thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am."
Genesis 22:1 - "Abraham . . . said, Here I am."
Genesis 22:9 - "He said, Here am I, my son."*

The smallest Bible in the world is said to measure in inches 1 ½ by 1 by ½. Yet the message of the Bible may be compassed in but three of the shortest words contained in it: "Here am I." What do we mean? Properly understood and used, these words include everything: in text by man to God; and in our third, by man to man. Thus we may consider that they sum up that which comes *from* God, that which goes *to* God, and that which is done *for* God.

I. From God (Isa. 58:9)

Cf. context. The message prefigures the Gospel and emphasizes the presence of God in human life.

1. Pardon

His presence is salvation (Psa. 42:5, marg.)

- a. Historically.* Incarnation was god manifest in flesh. Illustration of Chinese catechist comparing Confucius, Buddha and Jesus Christ: Man in well — Confucius ignores him — Buddha is sorry for him but passes on — whereas Christ has a rope long enough to pull him out.
- b. Individually.* Here and now, by means of Holy Spirit applying value of Christ's work — "nigh" (Rom. 10:8).

2. Power

- a. Guidance* — light — cf. pillar of fire — see John 8:12; "I am the light of the world: he . . . shall have the light of life."
- b. Grace* — courage (Joshua) — success (Gideon).
Our joy and confidence, moment by moment: "Here I am," not "will be."

3. Peace

- a. Companionship* — "In me . . . peace" (Jn. 16:33) — "Lo, I am with you alway" (Matt. 28:20).
- b. Hope* — "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).
How shall these things be? By the Word, and by the Spirit — these agree.

II. To God (Gen. 22:1)

1. Surrender

- a.* Letting go. Cf. Jacob (Gen. 31:11; 46:2).
- b.* Laying hold. Cf. Jacob again (Gen. 31:26).

2. Service

- a.* Willingness. Cf. Isaiah (Isa. 6:8), Moses (Exod. 3:4).
- b.* Preparedness — not "there" but "here".

3. Satisfaction

- a.* Possession — Cf. David (2 Sam. 15:26) — "I am His."
- b.* Obedience — Cf. Our Lord (Matt. 26:39).

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III. For God (Gen. 22:7)

1. Loyalty

- a. Cf. Isaac to Abraham with Jacob to Isaac (Gen. 26:18).
- b. Service of others for Christ's sake (Eph. 6:7).

2. Love

- a. Cf. love of Abraham to Isaac with love of Isaac to Abraham — one yearning, the other trusting; one disposing, the other at disposal.
- b. Service because of love of others (Gal. 5:13).

3. Labor

- a. Work for the good of others (2 Cor. 12:15).
- b. Work for Christ (Col. 3:24).

Have we heard the One who says, "I am," responded "Thou art," and added, to others, "He is"?

Conclusion

"He said" — literally, definitely. Have we ever done so? The second "Here I am" is the pivot on which the first and third turn. God stands waiting; others have need; shall we not say to God, "Here I am!" — either for first time or afresh?

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*