



# הִנְנִי

“Here am I - Hineni”

## The Covenant Call to Action

By Cathy Bentley Shavuot 2015

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“Here am I” “Hineni - The Forever Covenant Call to Action”

Crying out to God Enacts His Covenant

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Gen 22:7	And Isaac spoke unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, <b>Here am I</b> , my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where <i>is</i> the lamb for a burnt offering?
Gen 22:11	And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, <b>Here am I</b> .
Gen 27:1	And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said to him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, <b>here am I</b> .
Gen 27:18	And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, <b>Here am I</b> : who <i>are</i> you, my son?
Gen 31:11	And the angel of God spoke unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, <b>Here am I</b> .
Gen 37:13	And Israel said to Joseph, Do not your brothers feed <i>the flock</i> in Shechem, Come, and I will send you to them. And he said to him, <b>Here am I</b> .
Gen 46:2	And God spoke unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, And he said, <b>Here am I</b> .
Exo 3:4	And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And He said, <b>Here am I</b> .
1Sa 3:4	That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, <b>Here am I</b> .
1Sa 3:5	And he ran unto Eli, and said, <b>Here am I</b> ; for you called me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.
1Sa 3:6	And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, And said, <b>Here am I</b> ; for you called me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.
1Sa 3:8	And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, <b>Here am I</b> ; for you did call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.
1Sa 3:16	Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, <b>Here am I</b> .
2Sa 1:7	And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, <b>Here am I</b> .
2Sa 15:26	But if he thus say, I have no delight in you; behold, <b>here am I</b> , let him do to me as seems good to him.
Isa 6:8	Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, <b>Here am I</b> ; send me.

## “*Hineni* - Here Am I” - “Covenant Call to Action”

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A beautiful Hebrew phrase appears at important covenant times in the Old Testament: *Hineni*, Here I am! When God calls Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham answers, “*Hineni*, Here I am!” (Genesis 22:1) Notice the Covenant Words of Abraham. I am ready to do whatever you say.

Moses hears a voice calling from the burning bush: “Moses, Moses,” and he answers immediately: “*Hineni*, Here I am!” (Exodus 3:4). Isaiah receives his prophetic calling in a vision in which God says: “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” Isaiah cries out: “*Hineni*! Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8).

This spontaneous response of a faithful disciple echoes in the Bible, and it is wonderful and thrilling to hear. But even more wonderful is *Hineni* when God says it to us. Isaiah encourages us with these prophetic words: “You shall call, and the Lord will answer, / you shall cry for help, and He will say: *Hineni*, Here I am!” (Isaiah 58:9). I am ready to help you, God says, and I want to be with you. The same promise is voiced in Psalm 91:15 “All who call upon me I will answer; I will be with them in distress”

Isa 58:9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; you shalt cry, and He shall say, *Here I am*. If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

How amazing God answers and says to us....”Here am I”

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Abraham and Isaac – God and Jesus – Mount Moriah –  
Prophetic Pictures in Genesis 22

God calls out “Abraham”, and Abraham answers with *Hineni*.” God, hearing that Abraham is fully present and ready, then gives his instructions: “Take your beloved son and sacrifice him up on the mountain...”

Up on the mountain, as Abraham gathers the wood, the firestone, and the knife, but not a ram, Isaac, wondering what's going on, calls out to Abraham: *Hineni* ‘Avi?” “Father?”

Once again Abraham says *Hineni*” —Here am I, precious son. He tells Isaac that he trusts that God will show him the ram (lamb) at the appropriate time.

And finally, the last call at the most awful moment of all: As he is about to lift his knife to slaughter his son, God calls out —twice this time— “Abraham, Abraham,” and Abraham answers “ *Hineni*” — “Here I am”, and God shows him the ram to be slaughtered.