

Exegetical Analysis – Genesis 22:12

12 – He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

יִבְנִי אֶמֶר אֶל־תְּשַׁלַּח יְיָ אֶל־הַנֶּזֶר וְאֶל־תַּעַשׂ לוֹ מְאוּמָה כִּי | עֲתָה יִזְעָתִי כִּי־יִבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֹתָהּ וְלֹא תִשְׁכַּת אֶת־בִּגְדְךָ אֶת־יְחִידָה מִמֶּנִּי

This is a classic argument from Open Theists in an attempt to destroy God's exhaustive foreknowledge claiming he didn't actually "know" that Abraham had faith, and/or wasn't aware of his obedience.

This is simply not the case as God granted faith to him and through that faith the evidence was seen through his obedience and work.

Ephesians 2:8-10 NASB

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Hebrews 11:17 NASB

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;

James 2:20-22 NASB

But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? [21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? [22] You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected

"Saadiah Gaon interprets it, "I have made known", that is, to others; God by trying Abraham made it manifest to others, to all the world, to all that should hear of or read this account of things, that he was a man that feared God, loved him, believed in him, and obeyed him, of which this instance is a full and convincing proof."

— John Gill's Exposition of the Whole Bible, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

“Now know I that thou fearest God — God knew it before, but now Abraham had given a memorable evidence of it. He need do no more, what he had done was sufficient to prove the religious regard he had to God and his authority.”

— Wesley's Explanatory Notes, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

“Moses, however, simply means that Abraham, by this very act, testified how reverently he feared God.”

— Calvin's Commentary on the Bible, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

"God knew Abraham's fear before, but now he made experience of it. Nunc expertus sum, saith Junius. Nunc omnibus declarasti, saith Chrysostom."

— John Trapp Complete Commentary, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

“Now I know — God could not but know this before: therefore all that can be implied is, Thou hast now given the fullest and most satisfactory proof of thy faith, and of thy piety and regard to me, by this action.”

— Thomas Coke Commentary on the Holy Bible, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

"Now I know, i.e. Now I have what I designed and desired; now I have made thee and others to know. As the Spirit of God and of Christ is said to cry Abba, Father, Galatians 4:6, when it makes us to cry so, Romans 8:15."

— Matthew Poole's English Annotations on the Holy Bible, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

"Now I know that thou fearest God — God knew it before, but now Abraham had given a memorable evidence of it."

— Joseph Benson's Commentary of the Old and New Testaments, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.

“Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing, ... This is said in the anthropomorphic style. The omniscient God was well acquainted with the sincerity of Abraham’s faith, as well as with the ardour and extent of his devoted love; because both of these were the fruits of divine grace imparted to the patriarch. He foresaw also the issue of the trial, and knew His own

purpose respecting the life of Isaac. The meaning of this clause, therefore, is not that God had, by the events of this probation, obtained information regarding Abraham's character that He did not previously possess; but that these qualities had been made apparent, had been developed by outward acts."

—— Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible - Unabridged, Commentary on Genesis 22:12.