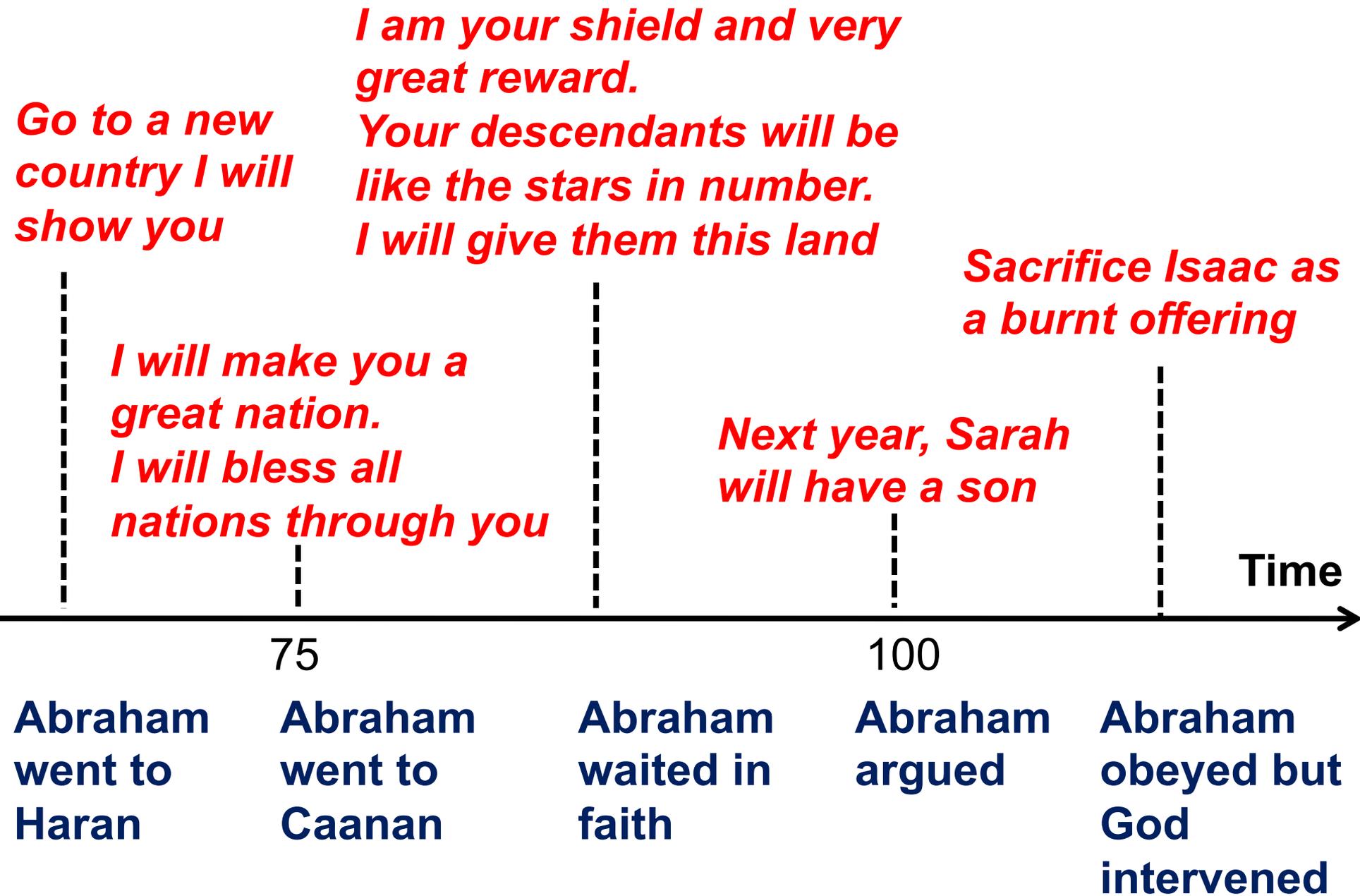


Abraham and Me

Faith is:

1. Hearing: *Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ* (Rom 10:17)
2. Trusting: *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see* (Heb 11:1)
3. Action: *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? ... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead* (James 2:14, 17)

Abraham's Journey of Faith



Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations ...

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

(Rom 4: 18-22)

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son ...

I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky ...

and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

(Gen 22: 12-13, 16-18)

The Process of Faith (or Unbelief)



1. God speaks



2. We hear

3. We choose



Unbelief: We do not trust, and we disobey what God has said



**Faith: We trust and do what God has said
(*even if in fear and trembling*)**

When God's Promises were Fulfilled

<i>I am your shield and very great reward.</i>	<i>Immediate and on-going</i>
<i>Next year, Sarah will have a son</i>	<i>1 year</i>
<i>I will make you a great nation and</i>	<i>25 years for first son</i>
<i>Your descendants will be like the stars in number.</i>	<i>About 400 years</i>
<i>I will give your descendants this land</i>	<i>About 500 years</i>
<i>I will bless all nations through you</i>	<i>About 4000 years</i>

Mountains and Molehills of Faith



Compared to
Abraham's
mountain of
faith ...



... our faith
may seem like
a molehill ...

... but ***without faith we cannot please God,***
so let us at least try

Personal examples:

- 1) From Bible: ***Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling*** (1 Peter 4:9), and ***Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality*** (Rom 12:13)
- 2) From Holy Spirit: ***Do not have a counselling waiting list, see people when they ask for help***

Struggles of Faith

Where do I start?:

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Gal 6:10).

This is much harder than I expected:

God is faithful (1 Cor 10:13)

My grace is sufficient for you (2 Cor 12: 9)

Have I heard God aright?:

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way. (Psalm 25: 9)

It is all very confusing:

Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. (Is 50:10)