

What's in a Name? Part 4 Jehovah Jireh

Introduction

Whatever your need is God says "I AM" – I am able to meet your need. Today we look at Jehovah-Jireh – I am your Provider.

Jehovah-Jireh: Meaning: Covenant God *will see and provide*

Genesis 22:1-14,22 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "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." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

Mt Moriah was the historic site where David made the burnt offering to the Lord. Now comes an incredible story that strikes at our very heart.

The Danish theologian and philosopher **Søren Kierkegaard** calls this a “leap of despair”. In this unbelievable and despairing crisis *Abraham hears three voices*:

- God
- Isaac and the
- Angel

God makes a Demand

v 2, *Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”*

God tests the faith of Abraham

- Abraham had two sons –
 - Ishmael – *human solution*
 - Isaac – *God’s solution*
 - Aptly named Isaac – meaning *son of promise* – can also mean *laughter*.
- God says – take this child and I want you to *sacrifice him*
 - Is God *contradicting Himself*
 - He wants to *take away every human prop*
 - Where is your trust?
 - Show me your faith – sacrifice Isaac
- Abraham responds in immediate obedience
 - This *journey* is not about violence but it’s all *about worship* – verse 5 to the servants *...but we’ll come back!* – robust assertion of faith
 - It was a logical and reasoned faith – blessing to come through Isaac

Hebrews 11:17-19, *By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.*

Abraham faith is educated, based on experience and he knows how to discern between God's voice and wild extremism – selfish human arrogance and delusion.

When Jesus was tempted three times in the wilderness Matthew 4:1-10 – he rejected the devil's temptation to test his faith on the ground it *was self centred and self deluded*.

Isaac asks a Question

Verse 7: *Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"*

- *Isaac trusted his dad and "went on together", verse 6*
- *Abraham trusted God verse 8*
- *And father and son had faith in the God who will provide*

As you obey God completely, your family and loved ones will ask you the logical "Isaac" question.

The Angel provides a Solution, vv 11-12, *But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "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."*

Abraham listened – *Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."*

He acted on what he saw and accepted God's gracious provision.

During the act of worship God provided – *"on the mountain of the Lord..."*

God Sees your need and God will Provide

Exodus 3:7, *The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians.*

Matthew 10:29-31, *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

God who will see and provide for you

Paul, in Philippians 4:19, *And my God will meet ALL your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

- Paul confidently said to the Philippians who gave to him when everyone forgot about him *"not one church shared with me"* out of their poverty
- My God will now meet ALL your needs as you now trust in Him – according to the RICHES of his glory.

Angels – God's ministering messengers will provide a solution for your needs.

Application

Immediate obedience – only trust in Him

Infectious faith – influence family and friends

Insightful provision – timely and precise provision from most unlikely source