

"Jehovah Jireh"

Genesis 22

INTRODUCTION: Tonight, we are going to begin a new study in the Word of God. For many weeks to come we are going to study some of the different names of God. This study will take us into many different passages. In each of our studies we will closely search the background of the text so that we can be sure to see the name of God in the context in which it is used and then we will make the application to our own lives.

The first name which we are going to look at is a name which Abraham used on Mount Moriah when he was speaking of God. It is the name Jehovah Jireh and it means "'God will provide". Let us now get to the text to see how this name of God relates to you and me.

I. The Background

Notice Genesis 22:1a

This section opens with a statement that is designed to draw our attention to the previous chapter. Moses tells us that what we are about to step into took place "AFTER THESE THINGS". So, we need to look at what "THESE THINGS" refers to.

Notice Genesis 21:1-14

Ishmael has been sent away and so now Abraham only has one son and that is Isaac.

Notice Genesis 22:1

God is now going to test Abraham and the test is going to be very difficult.

II. The Test

Notice Genesis 22:2

Here in this verse God commands Abraham to take his ONLY son Isaac, and he was his only son, and he was to offer him as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah. This was a command to give up the son which he had waited so long to receive. He did not have Ishmael to fall back on. Isaac was the son through whom the promise of the Redeemer was to be fulfilled. In Isaac was the hope of Abraham. This was a test of two things:

1. It was a test of the love of Isaac. God wanted to see if Abraham loved his son more than he loved his God.
2. It was a test of faith the faith of Abraham. All the promises were bound up in Isaac, so the question was, "Did Abraham believe that God was able to keep His promises even if Isaac died?"

Application:

This is a very familiar story for all of us and at the same time there is a great reminder here that we often forget. God often takes us through tests in this life so as to strengthen our faith. God is not concerned about our comfort as much as He is our faith and our growth. So, we can expect that in our lives there will be times when we find ourselves in situations where our faith is stretched.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. {endurance}*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

It is through the trials of this life that our endurance is built up. God does not permit the trial and the tests to come in order to defeat us.

Romans 8:35-37

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

God can say that in every trial we are more than conquerors because every trial is used by God to shape us into the person He desires for us to be.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Let me also point out that trials can come one right after another. In Genesis 21 Abraham had to put Ishmael out of his family and now in Genesis 22 on the heels of the first he is faced with another. So, let us keep in mind the words of Peter as we face the trials of this life,

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹² *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

¹³ *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

III. The Journey

Notice Genesis 22:3

Abraham rose up early in the morning to face the biggest test of his life.

Application:

Let us all be reminded that when we are faced with the tests of life it is always best to face them head on and not procrastinate. The longer we wait the less likely we are to be obedient. Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews wrote concerning Abraham.

Hebrews 11:17-18

¹⁷ *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

¹⁸ *Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

Abraham did as God had instructed him.

Notice Genesis 22:4-5

Let us not miss the faith of Abraham. He told the men who were with him that he and Isaac would go, and worship and THEY would return. He knew that even if God allowed him to go through with the sacrifice of his son that God would have to resurrect him for in Isaac were the promises.

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

¹⁸ *Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

¹⁹ *Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

Notice Genesis 22:6-8

This was all a picture of Calvary and what Abraham says in verse 8 is so very important. God would provide Himself a LAMB for a burnt offering.

This statement speaks of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice upon the cross. He was the Lamb of God and His blood was shed to satisfy the righteous demands of God. This was a sacrifice for God in the sense that God's righteousness had to be satisfied before we could be forgiven and be able to come into the presence of God for fellowship.

I point this out because there are many people today who refuse to come to Jesus Christ and instead they want to develop their own way of salvation. What they do not understand is that God is the One who has been offended by sin and He is the only One who can determine the way of forgiveness. If we break the Law, we do not get to determine how we will be sentenced it will be the Law Giver who determines the penalty.

Man's sins offended God and God determined that for sin to be paid for and His righteousness to be satisfied there would need to be a blood sacrifice and Jesus was the Lamb that would shed His blood to satisfy God's righteous demands of God. The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for God.

IV. The Submission

Notice Genesis 22:9-13

Abraham had every intention of sacrificing his only son. He had passed the test. He loved God more than he loved his own son. He believed that even if Isaac were dead God would still be true to His Word somehow.

Let me show you the words of one writer on Abraham's faith:

"Abraham had learned the difference between trusting the promise and trusting the Promiser. We can put God's promise before God Himself and feel it is our responsibility to bring the promise to pass, even if we have to disobey God to do it. Trust the Promiser no matter what, and the promise will be taken care of."

Application:

Let us learn to trust the Promiser no matter what the situation looks like before us.

God honored Abraham's faith by providing a substitute to die in the place of Isaac. It was a ram that had been caught in the thicket.

V. The Lesson

Notice Genesis 22:14

Here is the name Jehovah Jireh. It means "The Lord will Provide".

Application:

How does this name apply to our lives? To begin with Abraham's statement here in this verse was prophetic. It certainly speaks of the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ upon the cross. God has provided a Lamb to die in our place.

But there is more to the application. As we considered in the beginning of this message, we all face test and trials which God allows to come into our lives to build our faith and endurance. It is in those trials and tests that we often worry about what is going to happen if we step out in obedience? Abraham answers that question for us in the name Jehovah Jireh. We can rest assured that no matter what we face and no matter how difficult the path is which God has appointed to us, He will provide all we need when we need it.

Psalm 37:23-26

²³ *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

²⁴ *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*

²⁵ *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

²⁶ *He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.*

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

²⁶ *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

²⁷ *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

²⁸ *And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*

²⁹ *And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

³⁰ *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Conclusion:

Our God is Jehovah Jireh and He will provide for whatever journey He has sent us on.

Romans 8:32

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?