

What is His Name?

Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Will Provide

Genesis 22:1-18 (verse 14)

(Grace – August 29, 2010)

I. Introduction

I mentioned a couple of months ago that no one really knows how to say the name of God (YHVH).

Because the Third Commandment (Exodus 20:7) states, “*You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name*” (NLT), the Masoretes (Jewish scholars who lived between the 7th and 11th centuries AD) ensured that the Name of the LORD would not be taken in vain by substituting the vowel marks for the Hebrew word Adonai (my Lord).

This results in the Jewish reader saying Adonai in place of the unspeakable YHVH.

In ancient Temple times, only the high priest would utter the Name during the Day of Atonement and with the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD this practice was lost – and so was the pronunciation of the name.

English translators began to say Jehovah (YaHoVaH), which is not found in the original Hebrew language or Scriptures because there were no vowels.

Later English speakers began to say YaHWeH, but this probably is not correct either as there is no “w” sound in the Hebrew language.

I mention all this only to say that I would prefer to say Adonai instead of Jehovah. However, because Jehovah is so commonly used and is more familiar, I will also pronounce YHVH “Jehovah.”

When God commissioned Moses to be Israel's liberator from the bondage of Pharaoh's Egypt, Moses asked for God's Name in order to validate his God-given role to the children of Israel. God simply answered Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”

This phrase derives from the first person form of the verb *hayah*: “I will be,” and indicates a connection between the Name and being itself.

Jehovah is the **Source** of all being. He is the necessary Being. Everything else derives existence from Him.

The name Jehovah also reflects the utter transcendence of God. This means that God is above and independent of the material universe. God needs absolutely nothing to exist. He is who He is.

We, on the other hand, could not exist without Him.

If God is the self-existent one who possesses essential life, why does God care about us? Why does God want us to know Him?

God does so because He is more than Jehovah, the great I AM.

He is Jehovah Jireh (our provider), Jehovah Tsidkenu (our righteousness), Jehovah Rapha (our healer) and more.

Because these words are compounded with Jehovah, each one shows us the very essence of His being.

In other words, these are not just things that God does; they are the very essence of who He is.

As the self-existent one, He reveals Himself as Jehovah **Jireh** (The Lord will provide). He desires to meet the needs of those He has created. It is this name that I want to look at bit more closely today.

II. Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Will Provide

When I was thinking about what name to speak on this week, I chose Jehovah Jireh because I need to be reminded that the Lord will provide. [Explain]

Let us look again at the text for today.

“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. 2 Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.’ 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 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.’ 6 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, 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?’ 8 Abraham answered, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’ And the two of them went on together. 9 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. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. 12 ‘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.’ 13 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. 14

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.' 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.'" (Genesis 22:1-18, NIV)

Think about it – the first time we see God as our Jehovah Jireh it is in the context of a father offering his only son on Mount Moriah.

But this is not the last we hear of Mt. Moriah, because later we learn that Solomon “*began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David.*” (2 Chronicles 3:1, NIV)

So, on Mt. Moriah every temple sacrifice for sin would echo Abraham’s words, “The Lord will provide.”

Provide what? A consistent reminder of God’s covenant love for his people and His desire to forgive them of their sins.

Every lamb and goat that was sacrificed in the temple pointed to the ultimate provision of God for our sins and salvation that would be provided through Jesus Christ.

Then at the appointed time God took His only Son whom He loved (see the similarity to the Genesis story) and led Him to another “mountain” called Calvary where He was laid on the cross.

This time there was no voice from heaven to stop the hand of death. There was no ram in the thicket to take His place, because Jesus was Himself the Lamb. Jesus was the provision of God for the sins of the world.

Within limits, people can provide for everything they need while they live, but none of us can provide what we need for when we die.

For death there is only one who can provide what we need to live – Jehovah Jireh.

God, who alone possesses eternal life, is the only One who can make provision for us to live. He has **provided** for us “*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” (John 1:29, NIV)

What we could not provide for ourselves (forgiveness of sins and eternal life) was given to us by Jehovah Jireh!

The problem remains that although the Lord has provided, many have not received His provision.

Why is that? Let us look again at our passage.

*God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, **whom you love**, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.' 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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. (Genesis 22:2-3)*

I believe that for many, even many who call themselves Christians, we are unwilling to "**sacrifice**" that which we love more than Christ.

What or who is your Isaac? What is holding you back from going up to the mountain and receiving God's provision for you in Jesus Christ?

Is it a relationship? Your job, family, favorite sin, addiction, etc?

Another word for this is "**repentance**." Are we willing to turn away from the Isaacs of our lives and like Abraham obey God? "*Early the next morning Abraham got up and...set out for the place God had told him about.*" (Genesis 22:2-3)

"Anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment." (John 3:36, NLT)

Listen to how the Amplified Bible translates this verse: "*And he who believes in (has faith in, clings to, relies on) the Son has (now possesses) eternal life. But whoever disobeys (is unbelieving toward, refuses to trust in, disregards, is not subject to) the Son will never see (experience) life, but [instead] the wrath of God abides on him. [God's displeasure remains on him; His indignation hangs over him continually.]*"

So the Lord has provided for us and while there is nothing we can do to earn the gift, it is clear in Scripture that to receive the provision of the Lord in Jesus Christ we must "sacrifice our Isaacs" (repent) and put our trust in Jesus Christ (God's provision), which will be reflected in our obedience.

Jesus said, "*The kingdom of God is near. **Repent and believe the good news!***" (Mark 1:15, NIV)

And again Jesus said, "*If you love me, you will obey what I command.*" (John 14:15, NIV)

III. Application

Trusting in the Lord's provision, the Scripture says that Abraham went up on the mountain to worship and that afterward they would *both* return.

"We will worship and then we will come back to you." (Verse 5)

Will you worship the Lord today, believing in His provision for you?

The Lord has provided for us in other ways, which we will look at next week, but we will receive none of this if we have not first received the provision of the Lord in regards to our sin.

Have you called upon the name of the Lord (Jehovah Jireh) and by faith obtained the provision for your sins?

Are you willing to repent and obey in order to receive the provision of eternal life?

“And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, 28 so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people.” (Hebrews 9:27-28, NLT)

And *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (Romans 10:13, NIV)

So, what will it be? Life or death?

The Lord has provided; will you turn away from your Isaacs and put your trust fully in Christ today?