

## A NAME FOR EVERY NEED: JEHOVAH JIREH

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November 12, 2023

TEXT: Genesis 22; Romans 8:32

How many of you remember being in school and the teacher or professor would stand up and say, “Well class, today we are going to have a pop quiz!” Remember that feeling you had inside thinking, “Oh no – I hope I can remember everything I have heard or studied!” Well, guess what? Today we are going to have a pop quiz! But don’t worry – I won’t be grading you! I just want to jog your memory – and help you continue to remember all the names of God we have looked at over the last 7 weeks. I will tell you that I had to look at my notes to remember which ones we had studied – as I have a sermon notebook that I use to take notes during the sermon. Thus it is an open book pop quiz, if you have a sermon notebook. They look like this. If you don’t have one – we have one that you can pick up after worship!

So let’s begin the quiz. Just shout out the answers when I ask you the question. The first name we heard about 7 weeks ago was Elohim. Anyone remember what that means? God our Creator. Remember Greg had us go through the creation story in Genesis – and we found the name of Elohim 33 times! Elohim is the first name we hear in Scripture of God. The next one was El Roi. Anyone remember what El Roi means? God who sees. El is short for Elohim and Roi means sees. That came from the story of Hagar who realizes God saw her and called her by name. The next name was Yahweh. What does that mean? I am who I am. This was the name God gave to Moses in the burning bush. This is God’s eternal name. It appears in Hebrew as YHWH. And it is in our English Bibles as LORD with all capital letters. This is a sacred name that Jews would avoid saying – so by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, they added vowel points and came up with the name Adonai – which in our English Bibles is seen as Lord, lower case letters. Then in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in the name Jehovah appeared in the King James Bible.

OK – next we have Abba. Which is the name Jesus used – which means Father. The next was Yahweh Nissi – which means The Lord is my Banner. Then El Shaddai – Lord God Almighty. And then the one we heard about last week: Yahweh Rohi which means – The LORD is my Shepherd.

Well, how did you do? Anybody get all of them right?

They are seven powerful names of God. Names we can claim and use as they are names for all our needs.

And we have two more we are going to look at – today and next week. Today is the name of Yahweh Yireh or Jehovah Jireh, which is the name we are more familiar to hearing --- and easier to say, I think. Jehovah Jireh is a name that is FULL of promise and hope for you and for me. A name that assures us God will see to it and provide for our needs.

Turn with me to Genesis 22 – in the first book of the Bible. And as you are turning there, let me remind you of the events of Abraham that we heard back a couple of weeks ago when we

heard about the name El Shaddai. Abraham was 99 years old, and Sarah was 90. They still had not had a baby of their own – and God promised they would have a son. A very laughable, impossible promise – but El Shaddai is the God of the impossible. And He was able to make it happen. The baby's name would be Isaac and he would be a child of promise. Many generations would come through him!

From Genesis 18 – 21, many things happen, including the birth of Isaac – and Hagar, Sarah's maid servant and her son Ishmael being sent away. When we get to Genesis 22, we note that "some time has passed". Most scholars believe that Isaac is now a teenager or perhaps in his early twenties. Interesting, there are some rabbis who believe he is as much as 37 years old. We don't know for sure. But we do know he was old enough to understand what is about to happen to him – and we will find he truly is a picture of trust – as is most assuredly Abraham is.

Now, let's go through our passage, beginning with verses 1 - 2. *<sup>1</sup>Sometime later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."* <sup>2</sup>*"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."*

Can you imagine what Abraham thought? Wait – you can't really mean that. My only son – the one I waited for 25 years to come? My one and only son - the promised one – the one through whom would come many generations – as numerous as the stars in the heaven? Sacrifice him? How in the world could he do that?

But notice there was no arguing of Abraham with God on this matter. Rather, it is almost as if there was a solid, resolute action to obey and follow God's direction. Look at verse 3:

*<sup>3</sup>The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about.*

Now from where Abraham was, in Beersheba, it was about 50-60 miles up to Mount Moriah, where God told him to go. It would have taken 3 days of travel. What was Abraham thinking as he trudged along beside his son Isaac? Is God really asking me to do this? Am I really going to have to kill my son? Go on to verse 4:

*<sup>4</sup>On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup>"Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."*

Now notice the pronouns Abraham uses. We – meaning he and Isaac – will go up to worship and we will come right back. If Abraham was going to kill Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice, how would Isaac come back with him?

Well, the writer of the New Testament book gives us some clues. In the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews, in the midst of commending Abraham for his strong faith, he writes in the 17<sup>th</sup> verse: *"It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him Abraham,*

who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted. Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life." Isn't that fascinating? How did Abraham know anything about resurrection? This was years before Jesus had come into the world and died and was resurrected. Did God give him some special insight while he was walking along the pathway to Mount Moriah? Does this show Abraham's faith in God as El Shaddai, God Almighty who is able – more than able to accomplish what concerns us today.

Let's continue at verse 6: <sup>6</sup> *So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together;* <sup>7</sup> *Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"* <sup>8</sup> *"God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.* <sup>9</sup> *When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.*

Notice here – Abraham declares that God will provide a sheep – in Hebrew it is literally written: "Elohim Yireh" - the Lord will provide – or "the Lord will see to it." Charles Spurgeon says, *"For God to see is to provide. Our own word "provide," is only Latin for "to see." You know how we say that we will see to a matter. Possibly this expression hits the nail on the head. Our heavenly Father sees our need, and with divine foresight of love prepares the supply. He sees to a need to supply it; and in the seeing he is seen, in the providing he manifests himself."*<sup>1</sup>

Abraham did not know how all of this was going to happen – but I think he had faith in God and knew to trust Him even when none of it made sense. God would somehow "see to it" to make it all work out.

So, let's continue the story: <sup>10</sup> *And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.* <sup>11</sup> *At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"* <sup>12</sup> *"Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."* <sup>13</sup> *Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So, he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.* <sup>14</sup> *Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."*

Just as Abraham was about to take the knife to sacrifice Isaac – Abraham hears the voice of God telling him to not hurt Isaac. Now He knows Abraham was obedient and trusted God with his whole heart. And God did indeed provide by sending a ram – to be used as the sacrifice, thereby saving Isaac's life. And so, Abraham named the place Yahweh Yireh or in some versions, the name Jehovah Jireh....God saw to and provided what was needed!

What a story! A story that points to the greatest story of all in God providing a sacrifice for each and every one of us.

Notice where this story takes place – at Mount Moriah. Mount Moriah is literally where Jerusalem is. Later on, Solomon would build the Temple there... and thousands of offerings of blood sacrifices were presented there in that Temple. And today – we see that place where the dome of the rock stands in Jerusalem. Inside the Dome of the Rock you will find that a rock sacred to Muslims, Jews and Christians – a rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. Back in 1997, when Greg and I went to Israel, Christians were allowed to go in and see this rock, but now only Muslims are allowed to go in.

But here is what is so amazing about this story being at Mount Moriah – is that many scholars believe that is sacrifice Golgotha – Calvary that is on Mount Moriah – the place where Jesus our Lord was crucified – a for our sins.

So many connections in this story about Jesus. Jesus, being the *one and only* Son of God: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son”* (John 3:16) Just as Isaac carried the wood on his back up the hill for the sacrifice, so Jesus bore the weight of the wooden cross up the hill of Calvary. And both Isaac and Jesus were willingly “obedient to death”, submitting to the will of their fathers. And both were bound in preparation for death.<sup>2</sup>

And we are all like Isaac. We are all guilty in sin and destined for death - we are in need of a Savior to save us from our sins. And God provided just what we needed – the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Just as Isaac’s life was spared by that ram, so also our lives have been spared by the Lamb that God provided in Jesus.

Oh what an incredible gift we have been given. Romans 8 says it this way: *“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won’t He also give us everything else?”*

God is Jehovah Jireh – Our Provider – the God who sees to it. He saw us in our sinful state and loved us so much that He provided for our salvation. Praise be to God! And God is Jehovah Jireh, for our everyday lives. He will see to it – provide what we need, right when we need it. Again and again throughout Scripture we are told that God will supply all our needs – for in Him we have everything we need (Psalm 23:2). We may have to wait sometimes for the promise – as Abraham had to, for 25 years. And His provision may come in an unexpected way, like a ram caught in a thicket behind Abraham – right at the very last minute. But God will not fail us or forsake us – he is Jehovah Jireh. He will see to it – and will provide what we need. II Corinthians 9:8 says: *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency, in all things, at all times, you may abound in every good work.”* He will pour on blessings upon blessings – grace upon grace – providing strength for today – and hope for tomorrow – and life eternally! How grateful we are that God is called Jehovah Jireh!

The founder of the Inland China Mission, J. Hudson Taylor, used to hang in his home, a plaque with two Hebrew words: Ebenezer and Jehovah-Jireh. Ebenezer means Stone of Help and recognizes that in everything up to this point the Lord has helped us. And as we have learned, Jehovah-Jireh means the Lord will see to it and recognizes that from this point forward the Lord

will provide. Either way, whether we look back or ahead, we recognize that the Lord is at work and we have nothing to fear.<sup>3</sup>

Oh, dear friends – rejoice that God is Jehovah Jireh! He gave us Jesus – providing a way for us to go to heaven, through His death on the cross for our sins! And God is faithful! Morning by morning new mercies we see. All we have needed – or will need in the future – God’s hand will provide. His grace is sufficient for me and for you.

## **PRAYER & INVITATION**

## **RESOURCES**

<sup>1</sup>Charles Haddon Spurgeon, “*Jehovah-Jireh*”, October 12, 1884.  
<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/jehovah-jireh/#flipbook/>

<sup>2</sup>Brian Bill, “*God Our Provider (Jehovah Jireh)*”, April 3, 2005. [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com)

<sup>3</sup>Mike Tatem, “*The Greatest Test of Faith*”, July 12, 2020.  
<https://www.pbcllc.com/messages/the-greatest-test-of-faith/>