

JEHOVAH JIREH The Lord will provide

Genesis 11 v 1 – 18

“ Abraham named the place Jehovah Jireh “

Jehovah Jireh is 2 Hebrew words combined and used as one of the Names of God in the Old Testament. Literally it means The Lord who provides , the Lord who sees or the Lord who will see to it , provide.

When Abraham called the place Yahweh will provide , it is a beautiful testament to his faith and the character of God . Abraham’s only son Isaac , a gift from God in his old age , was to be sacrificed , but God saved Isaac by providing a ram in his place. God does not abandon his people or those He loves. This is what we long for when we have a need that is personal and special , one who will see to our needs and provide for us .

Let us look at “ Jehovah Jireh “ in the context of our daily needs. We invite God into our lives , in prayer , in pleas for help . We place our needs , our requests , before Him in “ faith “ and either receive what we have requested , or wait on what we have requested. We thank God for providing for us , jobs , family , friends , care , church family , abilities , answered prayersThese things are significant and meaningful and they are God’s provision for us . But too often we stop there and in doing so we stop short of the deep reality of what “ the Lord shall provide “ truly means .

In Matthew 6 v 25 Jesus tells his disciples “ Do not be anxious about your life look at the birds ! “ In this passage Jesus shows us one side of God’s provision. He cares for the smallest sparrows , He clothes them , feeds them , His eye is upon them , treasured created things. So why do we worry about His provision for us ? Are we not made in His image , uniquely made to be God’s children ? He provides as a father ought , exactly those things that are best for His children , without hesitation , and always at the right time , His time , not ours.

“ Jehovah Jireh “ Let us look at another context , for rescue from sin.

In Jesus’s teaching we see one side of God’s provision , but in Jesus’s mission on earth we see the other .

In John 3 v 16 “ For God so loved the world that He gave His only son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life “

And in John 10 v 10 ” The thief’s purpose is to steal , kill and destroy . My purpose is to give life in all its fullness. “

This provision , this inestimable gift of His son was more than lovingkindness. It was a rescue. It was a ransom . It was a debt paid . A punishment borne as a substitute for the guilty ones – us . The same God who smiles on the brilliance of wild flowers and feeds a sparrow , sent His only son as the atoning sacrifice for sin.

Jesus was the last and final sacrifice . Jesus was the flawless lamb able to redeem all sinners and pay for all sin once , for all time . Jesus is God's perfect and complete provision. Jesus is God's answer to everyone's deepest questions , and the fulfilment of their deepest needs.

When God introduces himself as Jehovah Jireh , meaning the Lord will provide , it is not in the context of our worldly needs, our material things . It is in the context of the most profound physical needs a person can face , the loss of life itself , in all fullness.

In the story of Abraham being commanded by God to take his son Isaac to Mount Moriah and sacrifice him , we can see much . Isaac was the son of God's promise to Abraham , a miraculous gift from God when Abraham and Sarah were old and childless. He was the promised child whom God had promised to make into a great nation. He was God's provision , or so it seemed , until God told Abraham to lay Isaac on the alter and offer him as a sacrifice.

In Hebrews 11 we read of the great heroes of faith. V1 "What is faith ? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen . It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us , even though we cannot see it up ahead .“ We hear of Abel and Cain , Enoch , Noah , and Abraham and Sarah . Abraham obeyed in the belief that God would raise Isaac. He obeyed in the belief that God would provide a miracle of some kind . And God did – a ram caught in a thicket as a substitute sacrifice.

There is nothing in this life that we need so much as to do the will of our Father in heaven. All outward wants are poor compared with that. This is why we were created , to worship Him , to love Him, our Lord , our Saviour , our Provider.

When we say Jehovah Jireh , the Lord will provide , we can be certain that it is true. From creation in Genesis to Revelations , where we see John's vision from God revealing the ultimate triumph of God's plan over all evil , and all the wonderful stories of provision to His people in between , the Bible is our reference book of God's provision for us and to us.

And what are we to do ? The will of God . The one thing worth living for , the one thing through which we are blessed. All outward provision is poor compared to this .

In Genesis is provision and hope . In Revelation is provision and hope eternal . Provided by the God who loves us , unconditionally and eternally.

We are made ready for His service through His provision . When we get to that place , we will find some “ lamb caught in the thicket by the horns “ and God himself will have provided that lamb, the spotless son of God , Jesus , sacrificed for the sins of the world.

Abraham christened the mountain , not by a name that reminded him and others of his trial or test , but by a name that proclaimed God's deliverance – Jehovah Jireh. So let us name the heights that lie behind us as memories, names that

commemorate , not the troubles we had on them , but the deliverances that we received , provided by God.

God the Provider , Jehovah Jireh , gave life. He saved the promised son from being a sacrifice. He preserved His promise to make Isaac a great nation. He acted faithfully in response to Abraham's faith and provision.

Prayer

Lord , thankyou that you provide for us .

Thankyou that you steady our steps on the path of life.

Remind us to stop and turn our complete selves , heart , mind and spirit to you in prayer and confession and gratitude for your provision to us.

Remind us that in you we have everything . Thankyou that you meet our needs each day in a truly miraculous way .

We come to you in awe and wonder.

We worship you , our Creator God , our Saviour , our loving Father , our Provider .

Thankyou for providing your one and only son as a sacrifice for us . Help us to be more and more like Jesus . Help us to walk in all you have provided for us , for your glory . Amen

Questions

1. What is your favourite story of Jehovah Jireh ?
2. Can you name God's greatest provision for you ?
3. Thinking of Abraham , Sarah , and Isaac , what do you think would be in their thoughts at this time ?
4. Do we rely on the Lord to provide ? Do we have faith that God's grace will provide ? Are we obedient to His will for us ?