

Jireh: “**The Lord Will Provide**”

There is probably not a better name for Yahweh known than the name of Jireh – The Lord will Provide.

Jireh is a Hebrew word YHWH – Yireh = “The Lord Will Provide.”

God, by revealing His name to us, invites us to know His character and His attributes through your situations in life.

God reveals His name to us in life’s circumstances!

Gen. 22: 1- 17 Abraham is **tested** by the Lord God to see if he has God first in his heart above all else.

v. 1- “Now it came to pass after these things [after the promise God had given was finally fulfilled and they had Isaac as the promised son – Ishmael was sent away & they were set to enjoy God’s blessings] that God tested Abraham, and said to him, Abraham! And Abraham said, “Here I am = I am here and ready to do your bidding!”

v.2 - Then He [God] said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, [Your unique miracle child] whom you love - [Ishmael was sent away], and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

God tested Abraham in the most difficult and hard to understand of ways –

- They were not to offer human sacrifices.
- They were not to hurt or harm another human.

God was saying to Abraham:

“I want you to go up on a mountain and worship me, & as the custom is offer a sacrifice and today – the sacrifice will be your only son – Isaac!”

- God was saying to Abraham: “I’m going to test you Abraham by asking you to give Me the thing you love the most!”
- The thing that you are most excited about, the thing that was a dream come true for you and Sarah!
- I want it – I want you to give it back to Me!

Look at this test:

God’s name comes in the situations of life that are trying to us!

“It’s the time in your life when you are going through something!”

1. This was a **Theological** test –

- God had previously told and promised Abraham that “I will make of your son Isaac a great nation.
- Isaac is a teenager when this takes place – he’s not married – Isaac has no children; yet God says: “Kill him.”
- But You said: “You were going to make of him a great nation!”
- “You can’t make a great nation out of him if he’s dead!”
- He has no children so my heritage can’t go on?
- So God doesn’t make sense!
 - In what He’s asking Abraham to do in light of what His word had already told him He promised him.
 - Have you ever had a theological contradiction?
 - You know God said one thing, but what He’s asking you to do now – contradicts what you know He said! It doesn’t make sense to you?

2. This is a **Familial** test-

- This is a family contradiction because there is no record in the text Abraham ever told Sarah what God had told him to do with Isaac.
- Sarah would have probably lost it – she had waited all these years for this son.

3. This is a **Social Crisis**-

- What is everybody going to think about me killing my own son?
- And I tell them – God said to do it!
- It will make me appear I have lost my mind!

4. This is an **Emotional** crisis-

- How is Abraham going to deal with giving up the thing he loves the most, has been waiting on the longest, to give him a future and a purpose & is the basis for his tomorrow?
- **Abraham is facing a test of epic proportion that has in it a major contradiction.**
- **This is the test that doesn’t make sense and that seems unfair!**

What is the heart of the test?

When faced with a choice between the blessing and the Blesser; **what will you choose?**

- Isaac was the blessing – he waited a long time for this son of promise.
- God had opened the door and allowed this pregnancy when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old. **This ain’t supposed to be.**
- Through a miraculous intervention – they received the blessing!

- God tested him – What means more to you?
- The **blessing** or the **Blesser**?

We can, I can, you can fall so in love with the blessing that it trumps the Blesser!

How do we know this is the heart of the test?

- Because God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in church – in the place of worship.
- “Offer him up to Me” that’s worship.
- Offer the blessing back up to Me – The Blesser
- At the heart of the test of God revealing His Person to you in the contradictions of life, there’s always the choice between the Blessing and the Blesser!

v. 3- “Abraham rose early in the morning & saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.”

v.4- “On the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.”

- Three days journey to this location of worship.

v. 5- Key verse- “Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

- The two of you stay here; me and my son are going up the mountain to worship.
- And we will return!
- God said take Isaac and kill him – how can WE return if I kill him?

Heb. 11:17 -19 helps us understand this a little better!

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received he promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said; “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding [Gen 22 understanding] that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense or as a type.”

Heb. 11 tells us what Abraham was thinking in Gen. 22 –

- God says for Abraham to offer Isaac – Abraham says to the two young men with him – OK – we are going to worship and we will come back to you!
- I’m going to do what God says, even though what God says doesn’t make sense from a human perspective – it doesn’t look like God knows what He’s talking about –
- But “I’m going to go to church in this confusion and in this pain and I’m going to go through this thing God has told me to do & then we are coming back.

Hebrews says what Abraham's thinking was:

“If the only way for God to fix this is for me to kill Isaac and God to raise him from the dead – God will keep His promise in spite of the contradiction!”

v. 6-7- “Abraham takes the wood, laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand and a knife, and the two of them went together.

But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, My father! Look, here is the fire and wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

- I see the wood and the fire, but I don't see the lamb dad, every time we go to church we have a lamb to offer!

v. 8 – Abraham makes a powerful statement; “God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering...”

- **God put Abraham in a situation that only HE could fix!**
- Abraham couldn't fix or solve this!
- **When God puts you in a contradiction between a rock and a hard place – and there is NO WAY OUT! – HE doesn't expect you to have a way out!!**

When God is trying to reveal Himself to you and get you to know His nature and Him at a new level- God will come to fix the problem Himself.

Because you, nor the doctor, nor the financial advisor, nor a family member, nor a psychologist has the answer!

All you have is a contradiction – a problem – an unsolvable dilemma.

It's a time for you to trust God – because that's all you can do!

v. 9-12 “He came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

He stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham! So he answered – “Here I am.”

And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; **for now I know that you fear God** since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

- Wait a minute, wait a minute – “What do you mean NOW YOU know that I fear You?”

- You're God Almighty, You're God Omniscient – You know everything – You know stuff from the Beginning to the End, You live in the present tense – You're the I Am that I AM!
- What do you mean – NOW YOU KNOW?

I know that you fear/love/respect Me because I have entered into the experience of you choosing Me above your own desire.

You have chosen the Blesser over the Blessing!

Because you have chosen Me – the Blesser over the Blessing – Isaac; I am going to respond to you.

v. 13- ‘Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in thicket by its horns.

- Abraham never hears the ram caught in the thicket until he fulfills the command to obey!
- **Do you know that your answer could be sitting right next to you; but you may never know it until God is ready to reveal it?**
- **Your solution may be right here – next to you.**
- **That ram was right next to Abraham; but he never saw it or heard it until God was ready to reveal it to him.**
- **Not because God didn't have it –**
- **While Abraham was going up the trial mountain on one side – God had the solution [called a ram] coming up the mountain on the other side.**
- **God would bring a solution at the right time.**
- **God had supplied the answer, but had not revealed it yet!**

v. 14- “Abraham called the name of the place – **Yireh** = “The Lord will Provide” as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the Lord” it shall be provided.”

- Abraham named it Yireh = The Lord will Provide!
- **Abraham found out something about the Lord that day – that if you and I ever discover about God – it will change our lives because we will look at our circumstances differently!**
- **“I found out Jireh will provide- Yireh**
- Some of the reason some of us do not know the name Jireh is because God is still waiting for you to act on what He has said to do!
- Even though you may not understand how it is going to work out – how it's going to happen.

Isaac had to be placed on the altar:

- Then and only then, did the solution show up even though it was right next to him.
- **Could it be - you have been waiting for five years or more for what God would have given to you in five minutes if only you had completed your sacrifice?**

It could be:

Money – “God, I’ll only give to You the part until after You give me the more.”

- To which God will tell you: “You will be waiting a long time!”
- **God says:** “I want to know that you trust Me enough to go worship and honor Me with the first fruits of what I give you, not what you just happen to have left over!”

You have to put it on the altar – you can’t hold on to Isaac and also receive Jireh who will provide all your needs!

We want Isaac AND Jireh the Lord that provides.

It’s when God sees your offering that He provides!

- If you give nothing that God can see, then He withholds provision because He responds to faith.

But what happens when God sees what you are offering to Him?

Heb 11: 19- Abraham received Isaac back -

- The angel stopped him – Abraham received Isaac back – physically.
- God gives Abraham back Isaac – **PLUS**
- Isaac is a type, something lesser than what he foreshadowed!
- What does God give Abraham –

v. 15- 18 God calls out to Abraham a second time saying: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son – Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

God says: “I’m going to give you back Isaac; but that’s nothing compared to what I will give you above that.

I’m going to open up the windows of heaven and shower you with things that will have generational repercussions.

You haven’t seen anything yet!

In saving Isaac, you could keep Isaac and lose everything else.

But because you were willing to put Isaac on the altar; you get Isaac back – and everything else.”

Abraham calls the name of the place- “The Lord Provides,” but then he tells where the Lord provides:

v. 14- “It is provided in the Mount of the Lord”

- The Lord doesn’t just provide anywhere, He doesn’t provide any old place – any old time.
- He provides when there is immediate obedience and at a specific location:
- “In the Mount of the Lord” what’s that?
- Mount Moriah – the place where the sacrifice was going to be made.
- So Mount Moriah was the place of worship –
- **Point:** You must look at your Isaac as the opportunity to worship:
 - When you worship over your Isaac – your love, your dream, your future, what you are holding on to for your posterity –
 - **You say God – I will bless your name in spite of all my pain – challenge – conflicts- misunderstandings – not because I feel like – but because I’m doing this to exalt the Blessor.**
 - **When God sees your worship - He makes your provision!**

Just as Isaac was put on the altar as a type, Jesus was put on the altar 2,000 years ago and just as Isaac was given back to Abraham; Jesus is giving back to His children and He ever lives to make intercession for us.

He is in heaven right now prepared to become your Provider for every need you have.

He is in heaven right now ready to bless you.

He is in heaven right now ready to provide for you.

He is in heaven right now waiting to deliver you.

He is just waiting for you to get up and bring your Isaac to the altar and be willing to get rid of your Isaac to free him up to know that you Reverence Him so He can know you what Calvary can do in this jacked up, tricked up contradictory situation you are in.

**You’ve got to bring your Isaac to the altar –
So Jireh can Provide for you the Greater Provision!**