

Names of God: *YHWH Yireh*

Genesis 22 & various texts

The Call (v. 1-8)

- God had promised Abraham that He would make him the “Father of many nations”
 - Even though both Abraham & his wife Sarah were too old to have children
- Then, Isaac was born to them when Abraham was 100 & Sarah was 90
 - God made it clear that Isaac was how God would begin to fulfill His promise (Gen 21:12)
- When Isaac was a bit older, God called Abraham to do the unthinkable: To sacrifice Isaac to God
 - *Akedah*: “The binding”
- Abraham’s response was obedience
 - He gathered Isaac and the supplies needed and set out for Mount Moriah
- Isaac, unaware of what was about to happen, asked his father where the animal to sacrifice was
 - Abraham’s response: “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”

The LORD will Provide (v. 9-14)

- As Isaac is about to be sacrificed, God calls out to stop Abraham
- The Lord clarifies that this was a test of faith
 - Does Abraham trust the LORD, or just want God’s promised blessings?
 - Note: God later made clear that He does not want His people to sacrifice children (Deut 12:31; 18:10)
- Abraham finds a ram caught in a bush
 - God provided the sacrifice
- They call the place *YHWH Yireh*: “The LORD will provide”
 - Also transliterated: *Jireh*

YHWH Yireh in the NT

- Elements of this story point to something more than the faith of Abraham
 - The repeated phrase “your son, your only son” (Gen 22:2, 12, 16)
 - The statement: “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering” (22:8)
 - The name itself: God *will* provide
- The author of Hebrews uses it as an illustration of Abraham’s faith in God to keep His promises even by means of resurrecting the dead (Heb 11:17-19)
- John uses this same language to speak of Jesus (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9)
- Jesus is the incarnation of God’s provision
 - He provides us salvation by being the lamb who was slain for our sins (Rev 5:6, 12; 13:8)
 - He provides us the means of having a right relationship with God the Father
 - He provides us His Holy Spirit to dwell in us

So What?

- YHWH Yireh means the Lord Provides
 - Through Jesus, He meets all our needs
- Do we trust Him?
- Are we content with what He gives us?

Mediation Verse: *Romans 8:31-32*