

One of God's Names is Jehovahjireh (Genesis 22:14)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. The Promise of a Seed and Land (Genesis 12:1-2)
2. The Test (Genesis 22:1-2)
3. Doing what the Lord Wanted (Genesis 22:3-10)
4. Abraham Passed the Test (Genesis 22:11-18)

Question: In Genesis 22:1-24, what did the Lord want Abraham to do? Why was Abraham willing to obey?

B. Abraham was promised a seed and land.

1. Genesis 12:7 says, "And ***the LORD appeared unto Abram***, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him."
 - a. Appeared (***ra'ah***) – to be visible, to perceive, to cause to see, or to have a vision of something or someone
 - b. Spoken in verse 4 (***dabar***) - to speak with one another
2. Genesis 13:15-16 says, "For all the land which thou seest, ***to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever***. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, [then] shall thy seed also be numbered."
3. Genesis 15:5 says, "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, ***So shall thy seed be.***"
4. Genesis 15:18 says, "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ***Unto thy seed have I given this land***, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:"
5. Genesis 17:8 says, "***And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee***, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

C. Abraham's faith grew over the years just as Christians today grow.

D. In Genesis 22:1-24, his faith was about to be severely tested.

1. In verse 1, God tempted Abraham.
2. If Abraham did not see or audibly hear God, then this test bordered on insanity.
3. But whether or not he actually heard something, Abraham acted on what he thought the Lord wanted him to do.
4. In verse 8, Abraham went to the site prepared to offer Isaac but confident that God would provide a lamb for their sacrifice.

E. Two observations worth noting.

1. ***Abraham did not hesitate to offer Isaac.***

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2. *Isaac did not resist.*

Question: What does Abraham's behavior say about his faith?

- II. Abraham's faith had matured over the twenty-five plus years.
- A. Genesis 15:6 says, "And he *believed* in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."
1. Believed (*'aman*) - *to stand firm, to trust*, to be certain, to believe in
 - a. If Abraham had never visibly seen or audibly heard God, then this could mean that he believed in the existence of God.
 - b. However, it is more likely that he believed in the promises that the Lord had given him.
 - 1) Evidence that he thought that God would really answer the promise about a seed is that Abraham was always looking for the fulfillment of that promise (Lot, Eliezer, and Ishmael).
 - 2) *When we truly believe that God has promised us something, we watch for the fulfillment, too. We sometimes even try to help God out just like Abraham did with Lot, Eliezer, and Ishmael.*
 2. Hebrews 11:8 says, "*By faith* Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."
 3. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"
 4. Abraham believed in the Lord even though the evidence was not there.
 - a. He believed that the Lord had called him out of Ur and Haran to a place that he did not know (Hebrews 11:8)).
 - b. He believed the promises concerning a seed and land.
 - c. He believed that God would raise up Isaac even if Isaac were offered (Hebrews 11:17-19).
 - d. Hebrews 11:17-19 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: *Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead*; from whence also he received him in a figure."
 - e. Genesis 21:12 says, "And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; *for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.*"
- B. His faith provoked him to action and worship.
1. He went to Canaan from Ur and Haran.
 2. He often built altars and worshipped the Lord (Genesis 12:7, Genesis 12:8, Genesis 13:4, Genesis 13:18, Genesis 22:9, and Genesis 26:23).

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3. Whether Abraham could always see and hear God is not clear. *What is clear is that he had an ongoing, personal relationship with the Lord.*

Question: What does Isaac's behavior say about his faith? How is he a type of Christ?

III. Isaac was a truly obedient son.

- A. Isaac's age is not known, but he is old enough to have some concept of what is happening.
 1. Genesis 21:34 indicates that Abraham spent many days in the land of the Philistines.
 2. Genesis 22:7 says, "And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: ***but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?***"
 3. He was inquisitive.
- B. Genesis 22:9-10 says, "And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and ***bound Isaac his son***, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and ***took the knife to slay his son.***"
 1. The Bible does not give any indication that Isaac resisted what was about to happen.
 2. He must have had a measure of faith, too.
 3. His father had probably told him many times about the Lord's promises.
 4. ***Isaac's faith had come from watching his parents.***
 5. He must have loved and trusted his father very much.
- C. In this event, Isaac was a type of Christ.
 1. Isaiah 53:7 says, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet ***he opened not his mouth***: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so ***he openeth not his mouth.***"
 2. Matthew 26:42 says, "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."
 3. Abraham needed a sacrifice, and Isaac was willing to be it. ***We needed a sacrifice, and Jesus was willing to be it.*** Both were sacrifices brought about by love.
 4. As we love the Lord more and more, our desire should be to sacrifice ourselves for Him.

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Question: How does the Lord reveal Himself to His people? What does Jehovahjireh mean? What are some other names for God that tell us about Him?

IV. God takes the initiative to reveal Himself to humanity.

- A. We do not come to Him. He comes to us and reveals Himself to us.
 - 1. John 6:44 says, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."
 - 2. I John 4:19 says, "We love him, because he first loved us."
 - 3. Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of him from the *creation of the world* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"
- B. He reveals Himself to us through General and Special Revelation.
 - 1. He showed Himself, whether visibly or not, to Noah, Abraham, and the others by General Revelation. They did not have a Bible from which to learn about Him.
 - 2. Special Revelation is how He reveals Himself through His Word.
 - 3. *We have the benefit of both revelation types, plus we have the indwelling Holy Spirit to confirm that these things are true.*
- C. God reveals Himself and describes Himself through the names that He gives to Himself in His Word.
 - 1. In Job 3:23, the name, *El Shaddai*, is used for God to indicate the highness or majestic quality of His character.
 - 2. The name, *Jehovahjireh*, appears in Genesis 22:14 and shows God as our Provider.
 - 3. Psalms 23:1 gives us the name for God, *Yahweh Rohi*, the Lord my Shepherd. In that verse, God is pictured as the Great Shepherd Who watches over His sheep.
 - 4. *El Qanno*, which means the jealous God, is another name for God which reveals a specific aspect of His character. In Joshua 24:19, Joshua described God as holy and jealous, implying that a person should refrain from worshipping idols and other strange gods. God wants us for Himself, and He wants our love and devotion to be directed exclusively towards Him.
 - 5. *Yahweh Rapha* means the Lord Who heals. In Exodus 15:22-26, He led His people to Marah where they were not able to drink the water. At that time, He revealed Himself as their Yahweh Rapha, the God Who would keep them from disease and pestilence if they would only diligently hearken unto Him.
 - 6. In Genesis 1:1, He is *Elohim*, which showed the Trinity. Each person of the Trinity was involved in Creation.
 - 7. In Exodus 3:14, He is Jehovah, the self-existing One.
- D. He proves Himself through logical arguments.
 - 1. The Cosmological Argument – everything that exists was created by something or someone else. The One that was not created is God (Jehovah).

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2. The Moral Argument – God puts an unwritten moral code into people.
 3. The Teleological Argument – A complex earth had to have a Creator.
 4. The Ontological Argument – God puts a Supreme Being belief into people.
- E. ***These arguments describe attributes of a deity, and the God of the Bible has those attributes.***

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Next week's lesson: How To Maintain A Stable Family (Genesis 27:34-41)

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 24:67, Genesis 25:21-28, and Genesis 27:27-41
Tuesday:	Genesis 32:9-10 and Genesis 33:1-4
Wednesday:	Genesis 34:13-31 and Genesis 35:27
Thursday:	Genesis 38:12-26, Genesis 44:18-34, and Genesis 48:12-22
Friday:	Genesis 49:1-12 and Deuteronomy 21:15-17

Study questions:

1. What was the Jewish rule concerning an inheritance for the firstborn son?
2. What kind of parents were Isaac and Rebekah?
3. Why did Jacob and Esau become enemies? What do Malachi 1:3 and Romans 9:13 mean when they say that God loved Israel and hated Esau?
4. What kind of parent was Jacob? What did he do to turn his sons against Joseph? What did Judah do to try to make things right for his father?
5. How did Rebekah break the rule of the firstborn? How did Jacob break the rule of the firstborn? How did Joseph break the rule of the firstborn? Who benefited from each occasion?
6. How can parents keep harmony within their families and among their children?