

The Lord Our Provider

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Key Scripture

Genesis 22:13-14 (ESV) "13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'"

Sermon in One Sentence

God's unwavering nature as Jehovah Jireh assures us that in every season of life, especially in our deepest needs and most profound acts of obedience, He faithfully provides exactly what is required.

Introduction

Life often hands us moments that feel like insurmountable mountains. Perhaps it's a financial crisis that threatens to unravel everything you've built, a health diagnosis that leaves you reeling, a strained relationship that saps your joy, or a perplexing decision that demands a step of faith into the unknown. We've all been there, standing at the precipice of "how will this ever work out?" These are the moments when our human resources feel utterly insufficient, and the weight of our limitations presses in. It's in these vulnerable spaces that we are most keenly aware of our desperate need for a power beyond ourselves.

The good news, profound and unchanging, is that we are not left to flounder in these moments. Our God is not a distant observer but an active, intimate participant in the details of our lives. He has revealed Himself as more than capable, more than willing, to meet our every need. Today, we turn our gaze to a foundational truth that echoes through the annals of biblical history and resonates powerfully in our present anxieties: the unwavering character of "The Lord Our Provider."

Historical & Biblical Context

Our key passage comes from one of the most pivotal and emotionally charged narratives in the Old Testament: the testing of Abraham's faith in Genesis 22. Abraham, the father of faith, had received an unthinkable command from God: to offer his beloved son, Isaac, as a burnt offering. Isaac was not just any son; he was the son of promise, through whom God had sworn to establish a great nation. This command represented an ultimate test of Abraham's trust, demanding that he lay down the very future God had promised him. The narrative is a profound exploration of obedience, faith, and the nature of God's covenant. This event, occurring "on the mount of the LORD," becomes a prophetic foreshadowing of God's ultimate provision for sin through His own Son, Jesus Christ. For us today, it reminds us that true faith sometimes requires letting go of what we hold dearest, trusting that God's plan is always better, always redemptive, and always involves His perfect provision.

Main Point I — The God Who Sees Your Deepest Need

Scripture: Genesis 22:8 "Abraham said, 'God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they both went on together."

Abraham's statement, made moments before the climax on Mount Moriah, wasn't just a hopeful guess; it was a profound declaration of faith born from a lifetime of experience with God. He believed that God, who had called him out of Ur, given him a son in his old age, and sustained him through countless trials, would see the dire need in this impossible situation and respond. The Hebrew root for "provide" (yireh) often means "to see" or "to foresee." It implies not just an act of giving, but of perceiving a need before it fully manifests and then making the necessary arrangements. God doesn't wait for us to be completely destitute or at our wit's end; His foresight means He's already at work.

This first point compels us to understand that our God is intimately aware of every facet of our existence. He sees the hidden fears, the unspoken prayers, the burdens we carry in silence. He understands the depth of your financial strain, the ache of your loneliness, the complexity of your decision, or the severity of your illness. Abraham's declaration reminds us that even when we don't know *how* God will provide, our faith rests on the certainty that *He will*. He sees not just the ram, but he sees Abraham's heart, his obedience, and the very path of his future. To acknowledge God as the One who sees is to find solace in His omniscience and comfort in His compassionate gaze.

Main Point II — The God Who Provides When We Obey in Faith

Scripture: Genesis 22:9-10 "When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son."

The narrative emphasizes Abraham's complete and astounding obedience. He didn't just *say* he would obey; he took every step required, right up to the very edge of the impossible. He built the altar, arranged the wood, bound Isaac, and raised the knife. It was at this precise moment of ultimate submission, when Abraham had fully demonstrated his willingness to surrender his most precious possession, that God intervened. The provision came not before, not during his contemplation, but at the apex of his faithful, costly obedience. This is not to say God only provides when we are perfect, but it does highlight a crucial aspect of His nature: His provision often follows and honors our surrender and obedience.

This truth challenges us to examine where we might be holding back. Are there areas in our lives where we are resisting God's call, perhaps fearing the cost or questioning the outcome? Sometimes God's provision isn't just about meeting a material need, but about perfecting our faith and deepening our trust. It calls us to step out in audacious obedience, even when the path ahead seems unclear or demanding. It is precisely in these acts of faith that we create the space for God to demonstrate His "Jehovah Jireh" nature, revealing His provision in ways far beyond our imagination. When we are willing to lay everything on the altar, we discover that God often supplies precisely what is needed *on* the altar.

Main Point III — The God Who Always Provides The Ultimate Lamb

Scripture: Genesis 22:13-14 "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'"

The culmination of this profound narrative is not just the provision of a ram, but the prophetic naming of the place: "Jehovah Jireh." Abraham understood that this was not merely a convenient rescue, but a revelation of God's enduring character. The name itself, "The LORD Will Provide," speaks in the future tense, pointing beyond that specific moment to a continuous truth. While the ram served as Isaac's substitute, saving his life, it wasn't the *ultimate* provision for humanity's deepest need: sin. The location of this event, Mount Moriah, later became the site of Solomon's Temple and is traditionally understood to be near Calvary, where Christ was crucified.

This leads us to the heart of the Gospel. The ram was a substitute, but it was just an animal. God's ultimate provision was not an animal, nor was it even *Isaac*. It was Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb of God, offered by God Himself as the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice for the sins of the world. On the mount of the Lord, indeed, was truly provided *the* Lamb. Every earthly provision, every answered prayer, every way God meets our daily needs, points us back to this glorious truth: His greatest provision was Himself, given for us. Therefore, if He has provided salvation, eternal life, and reconciliation with Himself, how much more will He provide for our lesser, temporal needs? Our confidence in "The Lord Our Provider" is anchored in the cross.

Illustration

A powerful story illustrating God's provision comes from George Müller, the 19th-century evangelist and founder of orphanages in Bristol, England. Müller was committed to never asking for money, relying solely on prayer and God's direct provision. One morning, the children were all seated at the breakfast table, and there was no food in the pantry. Not even a crumb. Müller, instead of panicking, simply had the children give thanks for the breakfast they were about to receive. He then led them in grace. As they finished, a baker knocked at the door. He had been awakened in the middle of the night by a strong conviction that the orphans needed bread, so he had baked three hundred loaves. Moments later, the milkman arrived, his cart having broken down directly in front of the orphanage. He offered all his fresh milk to the orphans so it wouldn't spoil. On that day, every child ate a hearty breakfast because God intervened, seeing their need and moving hearts to provide exactly what was required, at precisely the right moment.

Practical Application

- 1. Cultivate a "Jehovah Jireh" mindset:** Consciously reframe your moments of anxiety about lack into opportunities to reaffirm God's character as your provider. When faced with a need, articulate in prayer, "Lord, you are Jehovah Jireh; You see and You will provide."
- 2. Practice radical obedience:** Identify one area where God has been prompting you to obey, even if it feels costly or uncomfortable. Take a tangible step of obedience this week, trusting that God's provision often follows our surrender.

3. Remember past provisions: Keep a "God provided" journal or mental list. Regularly recall specific instances where God met a need in your life, building your faith for present and future challenges.

4. Generously give from what you have: Recognize that you are not just a recipient of God's provision but also a conduit. As you have received, look for opportunities to share your resources (time, talent, treasure) with others, participating in God's provision for them.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one current "mountain" or unmet need in your life that you are struggling to trust God with?

2. In what ways have you experienced God as "Jehovah Jireh" in the past? Share a specific story.

3. Are there any areas where you feel God is asking for a costly act of obedience through faith? What might that look like?

4. How does understanding Jesus as the "ultimate lamb" on Mount Moriah impact your confidence in God to provide for your daily needs?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You, humbled by Your perfect love and unfailing faithfulness. Thank You for revealing Yourself as Jehovah Jireh, the God who sees our need and provides. Strengthen our faith, Lord, that we might trust in Your perfect timing and Your abundant provision, even when the path is unclear. Help us to obey You fully, knowing that You are able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. May our lives be a testament to Your good and gracious hand. Amen.

Benediction

Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21, ESV adapted)