

## THE NAMES OF GOD

Genesis 22: 1-14

JEHOVAH JIREH – (The Lord will Provide)

Genesis 22:1-14 is very familiar to most church goers. It's the story of how Abraham took his son Isaac, the son he *loved*, to sacrifice him at Mt. Moriah. By history, Abraham and his wife were elderly when he was born. It doesn't seem very likely that God would "take away" someone that precious to him; but I have personally learned not to offer God something that cost me nothing.

After Abraham made the preparation for the journey and ultimate sacrifice of his son, God sent a miraculous "interruption". It was Abraham's obedience that caused God to move for him. Verse 12 of Genesis 22 bears witness to this. God said "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou ANYTHING to him; for now I KNOW thou hast not withheld your son, your *only* son from me".

Notice God said "Now I KNOW". We realize God knows everything so why would He say such a thing? What I believe God was saying is "you have PROVED to me that NO ONE or NOTHING is more precious to you than obedience to my command." We all know Abraham had another son, born to him and his bondwoman Hagar named Ishmael (Genesis 16: 1-12) Ishmael was born before he had Isaac; yet God referred to Isaac as Abraham's *only* son. I believe it's because Isaac was the son of God's promise – the son that was most precious to Abraham.

Nevertheless, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his (only) son at the command of God. In Matthew 16:25 Jesus said "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it".

Provision comes to the believer when they have obeyed God and are willing to wait for the manifestation of that provision thereof. Each time God made supernatural provision, the individual had to display absolute obedience prior to the manifestation. When the children of Israel needed a way provided for them to cross the Red Sea, it was Moses' obedience that caused the waters to divide so they could walk over on dry ground (Exodus 14:16-18, 21-22). Moses obeyed the command of the Lord and it was manifested by the parting of the waters. Jireh literally means "In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen".

Listen, God does not have to compromise His spoken Word in order to provide for us. Abraham was *still* able to burn a sacrifice. God simply provided a substitute HIMSELF. (Genesis 22:8-14). Although Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only precious son, just imagine how happy he was when God provided a ram in the bushes to sacrifice in his stead. Just imagine how happy we will be when the provision of the Lord is seen in our individual lives.

Obedience to God's command is BETTER than sacrifice (I Samuel 15:22-23). When God *knows* you won't withhold ANYTHING from him, no matter how precious, His miraculous "interruption", His provision, shall be seen in your life!!