

BE ROOTED, KNOW GOD BY HIS NAMES: YAHWEH YIREH

December 20, 2020

WORSHIP

Angels We Have
Heard on High, For
Unto Us (Open the
Eyes), King of Kings

WELCOME

How will you
celebrate Christmas
differently this year?

WORD

GENESIS 22:12-14

¹² He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

¹³ Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

It is CHRISTmas week and it will be a lot different from other Christmas celebrations we've had. With the current pandemic still wreaking havoc and safety precautions established to help alleviate its harrowing effect on people's health, celebrations have really been affected

Now more than ever, we remember Christ—the very reason for Christmas. His birth was “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10) for all the people, according to the host of angels who declared this to the shepherds in the field. The LORD has provided a great Gift for all of us. Our greatest problem is sin (Romans 3:23); our self-will going against the will of God, making us like sheep who have gone astray (Isaiah 53:6). We have a great need for forgiveness! The good news is that CHRISTmas is God's greatest provision of a SAVIOR to our greatest problem.

We shall learn from our passage today how GOD IS OUR PROVIDER (YAHWEH YIREH). The word “God provides” is mentioned in Genesis 22

YAHWEH (YHWH) is the personal Name of God which reveals that He is personal and relational, the Supreme Moral Being, and the Promise Keeper. The word YIREH means “to see in advance.” Because the LORD sees in advance, He will provide. He knows our real need when many times we don't even know what we need, which gives us tremendous comfort and peace in this life. Matthew 6:31-33 show us how we often fail to understand the heart of God, such that Jesus gives warning on our worrying about our basic needs. The Lord our Provider is also our Heavenly Father so trust and seek Him first. God will provide for what we need His way, His time, for our eventual good—to accomplish His purpose in and through us. When He provides for all our needs, it is for our good and for His purpose.

We see this Name used in Abraham's great test of faith in Genesis 22. God asked him to sacrifice his own son Isaac at Mt. Moriah (vv.1-2). Abraham was tested (Heb. NASA, which means to reveal), like testing steel bars for buildings or like tests that pilots must pass before they can fly passengers. God has to test us in order for us to grow. James tells us that our testing (Gk. Perasmos, translated as trials) is not a bad thing (James 1:2-4). It helps us learn endurance and develop our character further to completion or full maturity. What areas do we need to grow in that Abraham was tested on?

1. THE TEST OF LOVE

In Genesis 22:2, the word LOVE was first mentioned in the Bible, it described the love of a father to his son. This is significant because Isaac is a picture of Abraham's hopes and dreams. For many years, Abraham waited for a son. Isaac was given to him after many years of patiently waiting, so it was a big test when he was given this task of offering his only son to GOD. Anything that you love more than you love God becomes an idol. Do not just think of statues made of stone and wood when we talk about idolatry. The Bible warns us in Ezekiel 14:3 and 6 that idols can be formed in our hearts and God describes them as stumbling blocks and iniquities. The idols of the heart are invisible to many people, but God sees. These idols are not always bad things. They can be good things that take the place of God. Remember, however, that there should be nothing in this world that takes the place of God. Ask yourself “what do I really love most?”. What makes you really happy when you possess it and angry when you lose it? Do you love anything or anyone else more than GOD?

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2. THE TEST OF OBEDIENCE

In the next verse (**v.3**), Abraham's **obedience** is tested. Abraham got up early in the morning and followed God **immediately**. Delayed obedience is disobedience. **John 14:15** reminds us that our obedience to God shows if we truly love Him. Obedience brings blessings! It is not always easy; but we can trust and obey Him knowing it is God who provides. Seeking Him first is something that we will never regret doing. Are you willing to obey God even when you don't feel like doing it? Learn to trust that He knows best. He desires for us to obey Him every step of the way.

3. THE TEST OF FAITH

Abraham was tested in FAITH as well. We see his faith in **vv. 4-6**. He saw the place and told his servants, "I and the boy will go over there, and worship and **WE WILL return** to you." He declared a statement of faith even if he knew he was to offer his son. Sometimes, you cannot reconcile circumstances and reasoning. Faith means you learn to wait on the Lord and keep doing what He wants you to do. That was difficult for Abraham, yet he followed. Faith is something that grows, and God can develop our faith. Abraham's progressive journey of faith is seen in all the trials and tasks he faced. **Hebrews 11:8** tells how his faith in the Lord got deeper and discovered that blessing does not come from the promised inheritance, but from God alone. His faith was built over many years and when he was tested again (**Hebrews 11:17-19**), he held on to God's promise that through Isaac all the nations will be blessed. Abraham did not have an idea what God will do and how He will do it. Yet he was ready to sacrifice Isaac because he knew God is faithful and nothing is impossible with God (as Isaac was, himself, a miracle baby) Abraham obeyed God fully. At just the nick of time, Abraham halted the sacrifice when God provided for him a ram as a sacrifice in Isaac's place, as Abraham claimed earlier in **Genesis 22:8**. That is why in **Genesis 22:14** Abraham called that place YAHWEH YIREH—the LORD will provide. Years later, on that same mountain, Solomon built God's temple in Jerusalem (**2 Chronicles 3:1**). Sacrifices were made in the temple, and it was a picture (type) of what was coming-- 2,000 years ago, God offered His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sins. In the case of Jesus, there was no ram for a substitute: **JESUS WAS THE SUBSTITUTE**. He willingly offered His life as a sacrifice.

Christmas is the story of YAHWEH YIREH—God's provision for the forgiveness of our sins. **John 3:16** captures this perfect expression of LOVE. God gave Jesus to take our place. **Luke 2:11** reminds us that a Savior has been given to us. He is the greatest Gift we could ever receive, and the greatest we could ever give to others! Have a blessed, Christ-centered CHRISTmas celebration!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Do you have "Isaacs" in your life today? What would this (or these) things be for you that steals God's prime spot and priority in your life? An "Isaac" can be anything or anyone that God is telling you to offer to Him.

2. Setting It Right

Based on the passage that we have studied, what do you think is God asking you to do regarding your "Isaac"?

3. Living It Out

This Christmas, how can you be a blessing to others through the good news of the Gospel of Christ?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that people will know and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior, God's greatest provision to our greatest need. Take the time to share this message to someone this Christmas!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends