

## Provider: How To Know God As Your Provider

Pastor John Carmichael

**[Gen 22:13-14 NASB95] 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind [him] a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."**

- Economy before COVID was good and headed in the right direction.  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-economic-record-is-divided-before-covid-and-after-11602684180>
  - Before COVID: Joblessness 3.5%, Growth 2.5%, Minorities (lowest unemployment since 1972, lowest levels of poverty since WW2), Inflation was down. James Stock, Harvard professor, said there were good things happening in the economy that was not previously thought possible.
- COVID and Election: scrambling for toilet paper and hand sanitizer, lumber rose 300%, gas from \$1.89 to over \$3.
- We are a couple of governmental decisions from being in dire straits... or a natural disaster... or an illness... or political unrest.
- **Its time to know God as our Provider.**
- In Genesis 22, we read about how Abraham came to know God as the Provider.
  - God commanded him to offer up his son as an offering. Abraham walks out the steps of obedience believing that God was going to raise him from the dead (Heb. 11:19). God stopped him from sacrificing Isaac. God provided a ram to be sacrificed instead.
  - It was there Abraham called God "The LORD Will Provides".
  - This story points to Jesus' redemption of humanity. It also points to God meeting our material needs as well as our spiritual needs.
  - God will provide is the central theme of the passage and the turning point in the story. Note Paul's allusion to the story in Rom 8:32 ("how shall he not freely give us all things?") as well as H. J. Schoeps, "The Sacrifice of Isaac in Paul's Theology," JBL 65 (1946): 385-92.
  - [Rom 8:32 NASB95] 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

How can we come to know God as Provider the way Abraham came to know God as Provider?

Here are 6 truths about God being our Provider that we can learn from Genesis 22.

### **I. Knowing God as Provider involves learning obedience.**

- a. [Jas 2:21-23 NASB95] 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.
- b. Obedience is action as well as an attitude.

### **II. Knowing God as Provider involves sacrificial giving.**

- a. God asked Isaac to give a sacrificial offering.
- b. [Phl 4:18-19 NASB95] 18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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- c. Determine to become a giver.

### **III. Knowing God as Provider does not always make sense.**

- a. It did not make sense in so many ways that Abraham would sacrifice Isaac.
- b. [Heb 11:17-19 NASB95] 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten [son;] 18 [it was he] to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." 19 He considered that God is able to raise [people] even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.
- c. Be willing to go beyond your understanding when trusting God as Provider.

### **IV. Knowing God as Provider needs to be remembered.**

- a. See Genesis 22:14.
- b. [Mat 16:5-12 NASB95] 5 And the disciples came to the other side [of the sea,] but they had forgotten to bring [any] bread. 6 And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 7 They began to discuss [this] among themselves, saying, "[He said that] because we did not bring [any] bread." 8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? 9 "Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets [full] you picked up? 10 "Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets [full] you picked up? 11 "How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- c. We need to remember that God is our Provider.

### **V. Knowing God as Provider requires faith for the impossible.**

- a. **Confession –**
  - i. [Gen 22:5 NASB95] 5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."
  - ii. [Gen 22:8, 14 NASB95] 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ... 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."
- b. **Provision can come from anywhere.**
  - i. [Gen 22:13 NASB95] 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind [him] a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.
  - ii. Some teach this was unusual because rams stay away from the thicket.
  - iii. [Isa 43:16-19 NASB95] 16 Thus says the LORD, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters, 17 Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (They will lie down together [and] not rise again; They have been quenched [and] extinguished like a wick): 18 "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. 19 "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.
- c. Use the principles of faith (confession and not limiting God).

### **VI. Knowing God as Provider opens the door to greater things.**

- a. [Gen 22:16-18 NASB95] 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the

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heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

- b. When we know God is our provider, we are no longer limited to what we have in our hands.
  - c. Take the limits off of what God can do in and through your life.
- We can and need to know God as our provider through obedience, giving, trusting in His ways, remembering His promises, releasing faith and taking the limits off what He can do in and through us.
  - Jireh – NET Bible notes: Heb "will see for himself." The construction means "to look out for; to see to it; to provide."
  - Knowing God as Provider is knowing that He will look out for you... He will see to it that your are taken care of... He will provide!