

What's in a name? The names of God (Part 3)

Jehovah-Jireh

Some answers to questions you might ask:

- **What does this name mean?** The LORD will provide
- **When was it given to God?** In Genesis 22:14
- **Who gave it to God?** Abraham
- **Why did he give God this name?** Read Gowdy Cannon's great article about that very thing [here](#). (Hint: Abraham, Isaac and an offering were involved.)
- **Is this entire article going to be bullet points?** Maybe.
- **Isn't this a little lazy of you?** Probably.
- **Do you have anything interesting to add?** I'll let you be the judge of that.
- **If you were going to completely bail on this article, why did you choose this name?** Because this name tells me more about my God than almost any other name. Also, it connects to Easter in a wonderful way. Here ends my seemingly endless string of bullet points. I will elaborate further without them:

We all know the story. God told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. **WHAT IN THE WORLD?!**

My brain and my faith have a hard time getting around this story. God told one of His most faithful servants to kill his only son. Think about that for a few seconds. How would you react if God told you to kill one of your children? How would you react if God told you to kill your only son? And this would be the son who God had promised would continue your family. The son who God had miraculously provided to you in your old age. The God you love and serve informs you that you

will travel to a nearby mountain and you will sacrifice this son. Let's be completely transparent here: That sounds insane.

Without going into detail, Abraham heard the LORD and obeyed.

(Which brings me to the whole point of this installment.)

Abraham obeyed because he believed God would resurrect Isaac. We know this because the writer of the book of Hebrews tells us exactly that in chapter 11 verse 19. It reads, "Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead." That goes beyond believing God would stop him. It goes beyond believing that God would intervene in some way before the killing blow struck Isaac. Abraham believed God would allow him to kill his son and then the LORD would bring Isaac back to life. That is faith on a level I simply cannot comprehend. No wonder Paul said this about him in Romans 4:3: "For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'"

In the end, Abraham didn't have to kill Isaac. God stopped him and provided another sacrifice. And then Abraham named that place, The LORD will provide – or Jehovah-Jireh.

2,000 years later, that name took on its full meaning. God would look down on humanity and He would provide the final sacrifice. This sacrifice was The Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. [1. Revelation 13:8] God, in His infinite and perfect knowledge, provided a sacrifice before we realized our need for one. Just as He provided a sacrifice for Abraham. Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, the perfect atonement was provided at the perfect time. Because of this, no matter what our circumstance, we can say with total confidence, Jehovah-Jireh!

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