

Midweek Study

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OUR GREAT GOD

THE NAMES OF GOD

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יהוה יראה

Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Our Provider Genesis 22:14

I. God Tests Us To Strengthen Our Faith. Satan Tempts Us To Destroy Our Faith.

Genesis 22:1 (NKJV) - Now it came to pass after these things that God **tested** Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

James 1:13 (NKJV) - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself **tempt** anyone.

Satan's tempts us to bring out the worst in us. God tests us to bring out the best in us.

Temptation to sin is sent by the devil to cause us to stumble. Tests are sent by God to cause you to stand.

Satan's temptations are meant for your misery. God's tests are meant for your maturity.

Satan wants temptations to defeat you. God wants them to develop you!

IF YOU go to the gym and lift weights, you are experiencing a burden with purpose. If you work out with a partner or a trainer, their purpose in placing weight on you to lift is to develop you. The purpose of lifting weights is to build muscle. Now, if someone took that same weight and threw it at you, the purpose would be to harm you. The same weight causes pain but not for the same reason. One pain is to develop you. Another pain is to harm you. God allows trials or temptations in the life of the believer to develop them. Satan brings trials or temptations into the life of the believer to destroy them. Sometimes they are the same event.^a

Abraham's test question: Do you love the gift more than the Giver?

Today's test question: Is there anything in your life that you love more than Jesus?

Matthew 10:37 (NKJV) - He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

^a Tony Evans, *Tony Evans' Book of Illustrations* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009), 217.

II. God Expects Our Immediate Obedience.

Genesis 22:3 - So Abraham **rose early** in the morning and **saddled** his donkey, and **took** two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he **split** the wood for the burnt offering, and **arose** and **went** to the place of which God had told him.

Tony Evans says, "In fact, notice all these verbs: "rose," "saddled," "took," "split," "arose," and "went." They all indicate an immediate response. But also notice what verse 3 doesn't say. It doesn't tell us that Abraham tried to bargain with God. It doesn't say Abraham asked God why. It doesn't say Abraham snuck a lamb in his backpack just in case. It doesn't give us a synopsis of a debate between Abraham and God. No, it just says Abraham got up, got going, and got to doing what God had asked him to do."^b

Hebrews 11:17-19 - ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," ¹⁹ concluding that **God was able to raise him up, even from the dead**, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Ken Hemphill says, "Delayed obedience is immediate disobedience. Partial obedience is complete disobedience. Are there issues where you have only partially obeyed what God has commanded? Are there matters where you have tried to make a deal with God that at some point in the future you will obey Him?"^c

III. God is Looking Ahead to Meet Our Needs.

The root word of "Jireh" means "to see" and the compound connection means "to provide". How? Similar to our English word "provision", which compounds two Latin words "to see beforehand" or "to see ahead of time". God anticipated the need for a ram met the need at the right time. While Abraham and Isaac walked up one side of the mountain, God was leading a ram to go up the other side at just the right time. God's vision leads to his provision.

IV. God Can Meet Our Deepest Needs.

John 1:29 (NKJV) - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Extra: The Importance of Mount Moriah – Solomon's Temple – Today's Dome of the Rock in Israel

2 Chronicles 3:1 (NKJV) - Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Moriah, the site of Abraham's thwarted attempt to sacrifice his son, has been traditionally associated with the temple mount in Jerusalem. Today Mount Moriah is occupied by a Muslim shrine called the Dome of the Rock. Jesus, whom John the Baptist called "the Lamb of God," is thought to have been crucified just a quarter mile away from Mount Moriah.

^b Tony Evans, *The Power of God's Names* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014), under "Jehovah Jireh".

^c Ken Hemphill, *The Names of God* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001), under "Jehovah Jireh".