

DECEMBER 4TH 2005: ABRAHAM'S TEST: Jehovah Jirah: Gen 22:1-19

Abraham was a man who had walked with God for many years
Strange as it may seem.....they related together as friends.....
Jehoshaphat says2Chron 20:7.....

We can only guess at the huge amount of trust...that Abraham had in God
And it is this trust.....comes to the fore.....account we read from Gen22
Look with me at 22:1-2.....

The emphasis in the Hebrew...Take your son... only son...much loved son...Isaac:
God is saying toHis friend=➔ I know what Isaac means to you....
I know the promises..... **YET** I want you to take him to.....

And I see Abraham's speedy response.....as the response of one
Who knows that God has carefully thought thru the request He is making
Who knows that God realises the preciousness of Isaac.....

And that God....for whom nothing is impossible.....will somehow safeguard Isaac
...**even if HE** has to bring Isaac back from...to do so

Abraham knew that His friend would not let Him down.....So we read in Heb 11:17-19

When Abraham had Isaac trussed up on the altar.....Knife in the air
He expected to slaughter him as a sacrifice
In his age....culture.....It was not an unusual occurrence

Most of the gods.....would demand such as their right
And people would sacrifice ...often in order to appease the anger.....or to safeguard...

Abraham knew for sure that His God was not angry.....
That the Lord needed no inducements to keep him safe.....**Made promises**...Covenants

So I believe that Abraham reasoned.....If God wants me to sacrifice.....
It's simply so that He can reverse.....and bring Him back to life again

We of course know from Gen 22 that God intervened before the sacrifice took place
22:11-12.....

So why did God put His friend Abraham thru this exp?

For two reasons

Because of what God would one day do for all mankind

The sacrifice He stopped Abraham.....would be one that He Himself would make
On those same mountains.....many centuries later

Think again to the way God describes relationship....between Abraham and Isaac
..v2 your son....only son...whom you love
.v12 you have not withheld your son...your only son

then when we come to the NT we read this in 1 John 4:9—10....Matt 17:5...

The ram sacrificed that day.....pointed to the One who was to come
The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

Earlier on in the story.....Abraham and Isaac are climbing up.....**Isaac** asks about
And Abraham replies in v8.....**And that** is exactly what God has done
Hebrews 9:26—28.....

But God also put Abraham through this testing exp...because of what Ab would learn
about the God he trusted in

God is delighted when we learn something new about Him.....and the way He cares
Not necessarily new....we didn't know it before
But new in the sense of a rediscovery.....**A deeper** appreciation and understanding

That's what happened here for Abraham.....

He knew in his heart that God was trustworthy.....That God had everything in control
On his way up the mountain.....he and Isaac had left the servants behind....
And Abraham said to them as they did so,,,,,v5.....

When Isaac asked about the sacrifice.....Abraham had replied with confidence

The Lord will provide

And he meant that.....BUT when he saw the ram.....and knew what it meant

He recognised with great inner joy.....**Jehovah Jirah**→The Lord is my Provider

And indeed v14 says.....

Abraham's life continued after this.....with its normal share of sad times.....

But I believe it was enhanced.....with this lesson about the Lord...who he knew to be

Jehovah Jirah--→The Lord who Provides

Christmas time is for us who believe in Jesus.....a celebration of the fact.....that

the Lord has provided for us a saviour...**who in** becoming a man...was able to take..

As the Angels proclaimed to those shepherds.....**Luke 2:10-11....**

He is God's provision for you.....Have you taken Him into your heart and life ??

And if you have....then He is the sign to you.....That God is your Jehovah Jirah

Romans 8:31—32 says.....

The Message:→*So what do yo think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose?*

If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing Himself to the worst by sending His own Son, is there anything else He wouldn't gladly and freely do for us ?

Christmas reminds us strongly....that our God provides...**He** loves us....**He** knows us

He listens to your prayers.....**for He cares** about the deep things that you care about

What is the agony of your heart.....What is it that causes you such fear

What have you taken so often to God.....only to take it back again.....

The word of God to you today is.....Jehovah Jirah

Christ's birth.....death....resurrection confirms it.....God your father calls you

To accept itlive by it.....And He will empower you to do so.

