

Jehovah Jireh

We are continuing our series on the names of God.

We have done 7 so far and we will conclude next week, which means we will have done 9 altogether.

We have had a look at the following names.

- **Elohim:** All powerful creator! The one who can make something out of nothing.
- **I AM:** God who is super consistent. He always was, is and will be.
- **ABBA:** God who is our father
- **God Shalom:** God who is our peace.
- **God Qadosh:** God who is holy, set apart
- **God El Roi:** God who sees us.
- **God El Rohi:** God who is our shepherd

Today we will look at the name that a lot of us are familiar with. It's probably the most well-known name amongst Christians in the west at least; it's the name **Jehovah Jireh**.

Jehovah Jireh, God our provider.

We had a look at **Psalm 23** last week and saw that God is God El Rohi, our shepherd but as we looked at this Psalm there were parts of that song that also allude to the fact **He is our provider**.

Psalm 23:1 *A Psalm of David. Jehovah is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*

Psalm 23:2 *He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

Psalm 23:3 *He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

Those verses do give us a picture of **the shepherd leading us to a place where we will be provided for**.

He is our shepherd and **because we follow Him, we will not lack anything**.

He will provide us with green pastures and still waters and a place where our soul will be restored.

He is our provider. Believe it or not, it's His natural inclination to want to give us what we need.

Jehovah Jireh

Mum has been over here this week and she stayed with me down in Sydney while Margit was up with the boys in Budgewoi for the school holidays.

We stayed up there on the Monday public holiday and while driving down we were talking about a preacher by the name of Steve Furtick.

He has a really large ministry based in a place called Charlotte North Carolina where his church called Elevation has a membership of 20 000 people in 17 different locations.

He has been to Hillsong Conference a couple of times and is quite a “young gun” in the body of Christ today.

But mum was sharing how his dad was always struggling to pay the bills and how this well-known preacher has a memory of his dad sitting at his desk working out how to pay all the bills and maintain the budget.

One day while Steve Furtick was in college he received a phone call from his dad asking him how he was going and if he needed anything.

Steve knew that money was tight with his parents and said he was doing ok, but then his dad made a statement that made him think about his heavenly dad.

His dad made the following statement to him, this young guy making his way through college.

“Son, if I have money, then you have money.”

That’s not a bad revelation to get about your heavenly dad. If God is our heavenly father and He is, when He has money, then we have money.

That being the case, **the Bible actually encourages us to ask Him for what we need.**

Luke 11:2 *And He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, as in Heaven, so also on the earth.*

Luke 11:3 *Give us day by day our daily bread,*

According to Luke, this is the model Jesus told us to use when we pray to Him.

- A. We are to worship Him.
- B. We are to ask that His kingdom would come to earth
- C. We are to pray that what He wants to see on earth would get accomplished.
- D. Then Jesus tells us to **ask that God would give us what we need.**

Jehovah Jireh

I don't know about you but **I see a bit of a connection here between Gods will and His desire to provide for us.**

Straight after Jesus says ***Your will be done***, He follows up by saying, ***Give us this day our daily bread.***

I concluded that **it's His will that His children are provided for.**

He wants us to know He is Jehovah Jireh, God who provides and when we pray He wants us to bring our needs before Him.

For me, that is a difficult concept to apply to everyday life.

I will be honest with you, **in the natural I don't like asking for things at the best of times.**

That is a weakness in me that I probably have to deal with and **that often results in a lack of delegation in the church sometimes.**

I am really pleased when people take initiative and do things in church but **when I see that something needs doing I am a bit reluctant to ask others to do it.**

I joke about asking if someone wants to clean up after church on Sundays but **if no one puts their hand up, I will just do it myself.**

If I need something for myself, I don't usually ask anyone, at least I didn't used to do that.

When I was in Estonia there was a period when I was doing it tough financially. There was a change in pastor here and the new guy promised to keep sending me support but while over there he changed his mind so I had to live on a lot less and **I used to preach in shoes that I didn't notice had holes in them.**

I'd get up on stage with the only pair of dress shoes I owned not worried about the holes in them, **until my parents came and visited me while doing a round the world trip.**

The first thing they did when they arrived was go and buy me a new pair of shoes which I appreciated but wasn't game enough to ask for.

I noticed Daniel had some holes in his shoes the other day and I ordered Margit, ***"Honey go and buy the kid a new pair of shoes will you."***

A good mum or dad wants to make sure His kids are looked after and regardless of whether the kid feels awkward about asking or not, they will be provided for.

That's what good parents will do.

When they have money, their kids have money.

Jehovah Jireh

As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. God is someone who wants to give the best to His kids.

Matthew 7:7 *Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.*

Matthew 7:8 *For each one who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.*

Matthew 7:9 *Or what man is there of you, if his son asks a loaf, will he give him a stone?*

Matthew 7:10 *Or if he asks a fish, will he give him a snake?*

Matthew 7:11 *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more shall your Father in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him?***

It's good to get that revelation of God into our spirits this morning. **He is Jehovah Jireh, God who wants to provide for us and He will.**

Sometimes He will do that even when we don't ask Him.

Just like my parents bought me a new pair of shoes **because they could see that I needed them**, in the same way I have learned that **God is also like that, providing me with what I need when I needed it.**

Once when I was in Estonia I was driving in the snow going to pick up some people for a prayer meeting on a Friday night in a small village on a fairly small windy and slippery road.

I misjudged a corner and drove into a ditch.

It was night, it was freezing and I had no way of getting out of the ditch I'd found myself in. There was another lady in the van I'd picked up from another village and I told her to walk back to the village where the prayer meeting was taking place and see if someone there could help us while I stayed with the van.

I was in a bit of a spot when a guy showed up with his black Mercedes dressed in a trench coat looking like someone out of the Russian mafia stepped out of the car.

Out of the other door was a young guy who said, ***"Hi Mike, do you remember me?"***

I said ***"Of course"*** even though I didn't remember him at **all but his dad was a pretty imposing figure** so I pretended I did.

Then out of the blue the dad produced a tow rope and pulled me out of the ditch and saved me from a massive problem.

Jehovah Jireh

I went back home happy that God had provided me with someone to get me out of the spot I was in but there was more trouble to come the following day.

That's because **He is Jehovah Jireh**, God who provides for us.

That's what He has decreed and that's what He is obligated to do.

We see that in scripture quite often.

- **We see that with Moses the children of Israel.** When they needed food in the desert, He gave them this stuff called mana every day for 40 years, until they entered Canaan and the Promised land!
- **We see that in the book of Judges.** Whenever they left God and got themselves in trouble God would always provide them with a “**judge**” or someone who would deliver them from the mess they found themselves in.

There would be times when the Israelites were ruled by the kings, that when they went to battle and needed help, God provide them with the resources they needed to win.

- **Eg: When there was an alliance** between a king called Jehoshaphat from Judah and a king called Joram of Israel, and they went to fight against the Moabites because they weren't giving tribute money to Joram any more.

So they crossed the desert in Edom to take on the Moabites **but they ran out of water.**

2 Kings 3:9 *And the king of Israel and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom went. And they went around behind for seven days' journey. **And there was no water for the army, and for the cattle that followed them.***

Jehoshaphat, a godly king consults a prophet called Elisha who in turn makes the following statement about the Lord and who He is.

2 Kings 3:15 *And now bring me a minstrel. And it happened when the minstrel played, the hand of Jehovah came on him.*

2 Kings 3:16 *And he said, So says Jehovah, Make this valley full of ditches.*

2 Kings 3:17 *For so says Jehovah, You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain. **Still that valley shall be filled with water, so that you may drink, both you and your cattle, and your animals.***

2 Kings 3:18 *And this is a light thing in the sight of Jehovah. He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.*

Jehovah Jireh

God knew His people needed water and even though He wasn't all that pleased with the way the nation of Israel was travelling at that stage, **His nature was as a father who wanted to provide what His children needed.**

It's a light thing for Him to give us what we need. **It's what He does.**

- When He has money, we have money.
- When He has provision, we have provision.

The Bible declares He has provision for us.

Psalm 50:10 *For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.*

Jesus was someone who was always looking for ways to show that **God is Jehovah Jireh, the one who gives to His people even when they aren't expecting it.**

Luke 7:11 *And it happened on the next day, He went into a city called Nain. And many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him.*

The previous day **He had healed the servant of a Roman centurion in a place called Capernaum.**

Nain was about 25 miles south of Capernaum.

I looked on a map and noticed there were a couple of towns in between Capernaum and Nain and it got me thinking, **why didn't Jesus stop to do some work in places such as Magdala and Tiberias? They were on the way there.**

The Bible says that He didn't stop at these places. Rather He got up early that day because He wanted to make the 25 mile journey to Nain, making sure He arrived there by sunset.

Why did He want to get there by sunset? **That was the time when in Jewish culture, people would go out and bury their dead.**

Jesus I believe had seen that widow and her plight while in communion with His heavenly father and simply knew that He had to make it to Nain that night in order to meet that widow and do something for her.

He knew the plight of widows in that society.

This widows son had just died **and Jesus knew that without her sons support, she would be severely lacking.**

So He as Jehovah Jireh made a bee line to Nain from Capernaum where He raised the son from the dead, giving her what she needed, a son who would take care of her.

Jehovah Jireh

He is Jehovah Jireh, God who provides for us.

I see that theme right through the Bible.

But there is a story way back in the beginning of scripture of a man who had to apply a bit of faith before God showed Him He was Jehovah Jireh.

His name was Abraham and he was definitely a man who knew God intimately.

He was a man of faith and that was seen time and again through the choices he made throughout his life.

As he lived out his faith through doing things in obedience to the Lord, **He obviously learned a lot about God and who He was.**

One of the major things he discovered about the Lord was that **He has a name, Jehovah Jireh.**

This is made known to us after the incident where **Abraham is commanded by God to sacrifice his only son Isaac on an altar which meant...**

- Tying him to a platform made of rocks built to waste height.
- Putting a knife through his heart to kill him!
- Burning the body until it was completely gone.

We all know that God was putting Abraham to the test to see if he was really willing to go through with it or not and it was never Gods intention for Isaac to die that day.

That was proven when **at the last minute a sheep appears from no-where** and is used instead of Isaac to be the offering.

But after that whole incident Abraham is led by the Lord to name the place, a mountain a particular name, a name that I think summarises Abraham's life long experience with the God he had come to love.

Genesis 22:14 *Abraham named that place "The LORD Will Provide." And even now people say, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." CEV*

Genesis 22:14 *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. KJV*

What will be seen?

The fact that had been revealed to Abraham over a long period of time, God was someone who provided for those who choose to follow Him.

Jehovah Jireh

Abraham's life was a testimony to that fact. It will be seen that **through the Lord, it will be provided.**

I've tried to live the Christian life as best I could, doing what He has asked me to do, even when I wasn't sure if I could do it or not, but there is one thing I have also discovered as I've endeavoured to live the life of faith.

God has a name, Jehovah Jireh, which means **His provision will be seen.**

Get that into your spirits please this morning, **His provision will be seen.**

Abraham knew that long before He saw God come through that day. **He'd spent a life time seeing God work that way.**

As we spend a few minutes looking at his life this morning we will see that **there are some things we can do in order to see that God is Jehovah Jireh,**

1. Jehovah Jireh will be seen, when we run with Him.

Abraham was a man who had spent the last 38 years of his life running with God, running His race, putting the Lord first doing what God told him to do.

Genesis 12:1 *And Jehovah said to Abram, Go out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house into a land that I will show you.*

Genesis 12:2 *And I will make you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing.*

Genesis 12:3 *And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Abram does what God wants him to do and runs with the vision God has for him, to go to another country and start again as an older man.

The Bible says that he was 75 years old when he was told to do this.

Genesis 12:4 *And Abram departed, even as Jehovah had spoken to him. And Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.*

He decided he was going to run with God, wherever that race would take him.

If you have a look through at the next chapter, you will see something that happened as a result of Abram choosing to run with God.

Jehovah Jireh

Genesis 13:1 *And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, (and Lot was with him) into the south.*

Genesis 13:2 *And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold.*

Abram saw Gods provision because **he chose to run with his God.**

There were other people in scripture who had the same experience.

Solomon as a young man found himself king of Israel in his father David's place.

The Bible says he loved God and one day **while worshipping Him had a dream where God asked him what he wanted.**

Solomon asked for wisdom. He knew that God had planned for him to be king and **that was what he had to run with.**

But he knew he couldn't do it without help, so he asked God for wisdom.

This was Gods response to Solomon's request.

1Kings 3:12 *So I'll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live.*

1Kings 3:13 *I'll also give you what you didn't ask for. You'll be rich and respected as long as you live, and you'll be greater than any other king.*

1Kings 3:14 *If you obey me and follow my commands, as your father David did, I'll let you live a long time. CEV*

We know that God kept His promise to Solomon. When he ran with God, God gave him what he didn't ask for, **wealth and respect for someone so young.**

This is what the Bible says about Israel under Solomon's reign.

1Kings 4:20 *There were so many people living in Judah and Israel while Solomon was king that they seemed like grains of sand on a beach. Everyone had enough to eat and drink, and they were happy. CEV*

This man who wanted to run with Gods ways of doing things was blessed with a kingdom where people were prosperous and happy.

I'm not saying that when you run with God, He is always going to bless you financially, but **you will see Gods provision....always!**

The provision is a result of tithing and giving.

Jehovah Jireh

Part of Abrams race involved him tithing, giving a portion of his income to someone whom he recognised as Gods representative, a king called Melchizedek.

Genesis 14:20 *And blessed be the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him tithes of all.*

Solomon did the same setting aside a portion of his nation's income for the building of a temple that would be set aside for worshipping Him.

But the provision is more than just money. When we run with God, **He will enable us to see His provision when it comes to our souls.**

Our souls need provision just as much as our stomachs do and when we run with Him, we will see Jehovah Jireh providing for every area, body soul and spirit.

- **Eg:** After my incident in Estonia with me driving the church bus into a ditch, **the following morning I was scheduled to help an American missionary** who needed some second hand wardrobes put together and I had to use the church van to go and pick them up.

I slid into two cars on my trip to pick them up and when I finally got back to the missionaries house **there were pieces missing and it was a frustrating time putting them together.**

But what kept me going was the fact that I'd taken a chicken out of the freezer that morning and was looking forward to cooking it and having a nice chicken dinner but where I was living there was a cat I had to look after.

This cat had taken my chicken I'd bought and eaten it and what he hadn't eaten was scattered all over the kitchen so I had no dinner that night.

I was frustrated and ready to catch the next flight out of there because my nerves were shot.

But Jehovah Jireh knew where I was at and made sure I got what I needed.

The incident with the cat happened on the Saturday and **I went into the church office on the Monday morning** where I knew that any letters coming from Australia would be waiting for me there.

I had received a letter from an old lady who while I knew who simply wrote a letter telling me that she woke up at 5 am every day to send her husband and son off to work, but once they were gone she would spend time praying for me.

Jehovah Jireh

Any frustration I might have been feeling then just washed away with those words. If someone was willing enough to pray for me at 5 in the morning every day, then I was willing to continue on, even when things got tough.

God knew what I needed and sent that to me even when I didn't ask for it.

That's what happens when you choose to run with Him.

You will see Jehovah Jireh, God the provider at work, just as Abraham did when ram turned up out of nowhere to replace Isaac.

Jehovah Jireh will be seen, when we run with Him.

2. Jehovah Jireh will be seen when we choose to release.

We know that in the life of Abraham, **having a child was really important to him and his wife.**

After the story when Abraham pays a tithe of what he'd received **after fighting an alliance of kings to rescue Lot, he received a promise from the Lord.**

God promises that He will be a shield to Abram and look after him. It was something Abram needed to hear because there was the possibility the defeated kings would come back and take their revenge on him.

But as I read this verse and the promise God gave him, I could see that something was on Abrams mind constantly.

Where is he going to get a son from?

It's the first thing he says to God after God had given him that wonderful promise of protection.

Genesis 15:2 And Abram said, Lord God, what will You give me, since I am going childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

"That's all good God, but what about the issue of a descendant?"

It seems this issue of a son was on his mind constantly.

It even led him to make a dumb decision to sleep with his wife's servant, but as I preached two weeks ago, **God bought something good out of even that.**

Jehovah Jireh

So when Isaac finally comes, 13 years after this promise had been given in Genesis 15, Abraham probably has a sense of joy that finally God has given him and Sarah what they'd always wanted, **someone to pass their inheritance to, a child!**

Then 13 years after Isaac is born, God tells him to take him up to a mountain, tie him up, stab him to death and then burn his body as you would to an animal that has been chosen as a sacrifice.

Why would God do that for?

I think God saw that **Abraham needed to release Isaac.**

Often things given by God become idols to us, they really do and God has to find a way to help us get released of that obsession.

I really do think that was what happened to Abraham and God had to find a way to enable him to be released from that.

So God tells Abraham to go and sacrifice Isaac, knowing full well that He was going to intervene at the last minute, **so this man of faith would be released from this unhealthy obsession that he had.**

When he “released” Isaac and was willing to let him go, God suddenly came down and provided a ram to be the sacrifice and Abraham named that place, Jehovah Jireh.

Genesis 22:14 *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*

God's provision was seen because Abraham was willing to release.

- **Eg: My story of me releasing my business into Gods hands.**

I can never get rid of it. Work comes to me one way or another and I wonder is that a part of Gods calling for me to be in places **where I can be salt and light on a building site.**

3. Jehovah Jireh will be seen even when we don't realise what He's doing

After Abraham and Isaac's time on the mountain, they come back down again and they are made aware of some family news.

Genesis 22:20 *And it happened after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, Behold Milcah! She also has borne children to your brother Nahor:*

Genesis 22:21 *Huz his first-born, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram,*

Jehovah Jireh

Genesis 22:22 *and Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel.*

Nahor, Abraham's younger brother had stayed back in Haran and **Abraham discovered some news about the expanding family tree.**

Nahor and his wife had 8 children and one of them was a man called Bethuel. **He is mentioned again in the next verse.**

Genesis 22:23 *And Bethuel fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.*

Who was Rebekah? Rebekah was Isaac's future wife. **She was his cousins daughter** who later on would be the one to help fulfil the promise God gave to Abraham on the mountain about to sacrifice Isaac that he really would be the father of many nations.

He would be the father of many nations because of his obedience to God.

Genesis 22:17 *that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is upon the seashore. And your Seed shall possess the gate of His enemies.*

Genesis 22:18 *And in your Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. MKJV*

Even back then, with the birth of Rebekah a girl 13 years younger than Isaac, **God was providing a way for the promise to come to pass.**

Later on Abraham sends a servant back to where Nahor was living and there he found Rebekah and through providence it was discovered she was the one **God had ordained to be the wife of Isaac and fulfil the promise of descendants for Abraham.**

Rebekah comes back on a camel, back to her future husband and father in law, and there she was introduced to the family.

I couldn't help but wonder if Abraham had a bit of chuckle to himself when he found out, who Rebekah was.

She was the last name in the list of people he'd heard about immediately after the incident where God confirmed he would have many descendants and **the promise would be provided for.**

As he pondered who she was and when she was born, about the same time as the incident on the mountain he called Jehovah Jireh, he must have concluded that God was providing, even when didn't realise it.

Senior Pastor Michael Hennessey
Notes for the Names of God a sermon series given in 2018
Jehovah Jireh

That's how God, Jehovah Jireh operates.

He is providing even we don't realise it.

- **Eg: Story of church that needed a mountain moved.**

A small congregation in the foothills of the Great Smokies built a new sanctuary on a piece of land willed to them by a church member.

Ten days before the new church was to open, **the local building inspector informed the pastor that the parking lot was inadequate for the size of the building.**

Until the church doubled the size of the parking lot, they would not be able to use the new sanctuary.

Unfortunately, the church with its undersized lot had used every inch of their land except for the mountain against which it had been built.

In order to build more parking spaces, they would have to move the mountain out of the back yard.

Undaunted, the pastor announced the next Sunday morning that **he would meet that evening with all members who had "mountain moving faith."**

They would hold a prayer session asking God to remove the mountain from the back yard and to somehow provide enough money to have it paved and painted before the scheduled opening dedication service the following week.

At the appointed time, 24 of the congregation's 300 members assembled for prayer. They prayed for nearly three hours. At ten o'clock the pastor said the final "Amen." "We'll open next Sunday as scheduled," he assured everyone. ***"God has never let us down before, and I believe He will be faithful this time too."***

The next morning as he was working in his study there came a loud knock at his door.

When he called "come in," a rough looking construction foreman appeared, removing his hard hat as he entered. **"Excuse me, Reverend. I'm from Acme Construction Company over in the next county. We're building a huge new shopping mall over there and we need some fill dirt. Would you be willing to sell us a chunk of that mountain behind the church? We'll pay you for the dirt we remove** and pave all the exposed area free of charge, if we can have it right away. We can't do anything else until we get the dirt in and allow it to settle properly."

Jehovah Jireh

The little church was dedicated the next Sunday as originally planned and there were far more members with "mountain moving faith" on opening Sunday than there had been the previous week!

Did God provide for His people in that story? **Yes He did.**

Did the pastor realise what was going on when He was praying? **No he didn't.**

God was providing a way, even when they didn't realise it!

Does He still do that today?

Of course He does, but do we trust Him enough to do that?

Jehovah Jireh will be seen even when we don't realise what He's doing.

Abraham had a reputation

Romans 4:16 *Therefore it is of faith so that it might be according to grace; for the promise to be made sure to all the seed, not only to that which is of the Law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, **who is the father of us all***

He isn't our physical father, but he is known as father of our faith.

In other words, he was the one who put an example in place of someone who simply believed in God and that belief enabled him to see something.

He saw that God is Jehovah Jireh, in the mount of the Lord it will be seen.

His provision will be seen by those who have faith in Him.

Do you believe?

Up until Isaac was supposed to be sacrificed, Abraham spent 38 years believing and it paid off.

There were things God had promised Him that he didn't get to see, but he died believing that Gods provision would be seen even by his descendants.

1. Gods provision was seen, **when he ran with God.**
2. Gods provision was seen, **when he released things to God**
3. Gods provision was seen, **even when he didn't realise what God was doing.**

He is Jehovah Jireh, and His provision will be seen!

Amen!!!

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