

# **THE NAME JEHOVAH**

## **1. Jehovah Jireh**



### **INTRODUCTION**

Many different names and titles are used for God in the Bible. These all show us different aspects of who he is, but we are going to focus on one name that he gave to the Children of Israel to use. It is the name Jehovah or Yahweh.

In the Hebrew language this name is written with just 4 consonants: YHWH. The reason is that there are no vowels in Hebrew. However this name was so sacred to the Jewish people they would often use the name Adonai instead, which is translated in our English Bible as Lord, in capital letters.

☆ When Moses asked God what his name was, what answer did he give? What do you think this means?  
Exodus 3:13-15

The name that God gave that day is linked to the name Yahweh. In the Hebrew language the present tense often has a future meaning, so God's name could be 'I am who I am' or 'I will be who I will be'. It shows us that God is a person, not just a supreme being and an entity, but someone with whom we can have a relationship. He was giving his personal name to his people, so they could know him.

The name, 'I am who I am' also shows us that God is eternal and unchanging. God is the 'One who is' – in him is the past, present and future. This is what is says in Revelation 1:8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Also this name is linked to the covenant God made with mankind. Just as the One who made the covenant is unchanging, so is the covenant itself. The name Jehovah is also linked to seven titles, each one showing an aspect of God's covenant keeping faithfulness to us. In this series of studies we will look at these titles one by one. The first is: Jehovah Jireh.

### **1. JEHOVAH JIREH**

The first name that is linked with Jehovah is found in Genesis 22, the story of how God told Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice.

☆ How did Abraham answer Isaac's question? Genesis 22:6-8

☆ What do you think Abraham meant by his answer? See Hebrews 11:17-19

As Abraham was about to kill his son, God stopped him, and provided a sacrifice in his place.

☆ What revelation did Abraham receive that day? Genesis 22:13-14

The word 'provide' in the Hebrew language also means 'to see'. How wonderful that God sees our need and provides for us! This is the foundation of all God's covenant commitment to us – he provides for his children. This points to the ultimate fulfilment of all God's covenant commitments.

✧ What, or rather who, is the ultimate fulfilment of God's covenant with man? John 1:29-30

✧ Where (at what place) would this provision be made for man? Genesis 22:2, 14

✧ Where was Jesus was crucified? John 19:17-18

These two places are the same! It is believed that the mountain where God told Abraham to offer Isaac is exactly the same place where Jesus was crucified about 2000 years later. Abraham typified God the Father, Isaac typified Jesus the Son, and the fire typified the Holy Spirit. Just as Abraham offered his son, God the Father would offer his son, and the Holy Spirit is the fire that makes the sacrifice possible. The wood Isaac carried is like the cross upon which the sacrifice was given.

God has given us the ultimate provision, and through Jesus he promises to provide for his people, for every situation and forever.

✧ What do you think the 'all things' in Romans 8:32 refers to?

✧ In what ways have you experienced God's provision for you over the past few weeks? Share.

## **CONCLUSION**

On that day when Abraham offered his son to God he had a wonderful revelation of who God is. He is the One who provides for his people – Jehovah Jireh. Our greatest need, and the greatest need of all mankind, is salvation, and this was provided by God himself. Jesus became the sacrifice for our sin, so we could be forgiven and restored to God. When we accept his offer of salvation we enter into a covenant with God, and his promise is to provide for us. This provision encompasses every need we have!