

# **Yahweh Yireh: I Am Your Provider: You Will Have What You Need**

*By Bobby Schuller*

We're in a series talking about the names of God, and today we're going to talk about the name commonly called Jehovah Jireh. The correct pronunciation is Yahweh Yireh. A little hard to say in English. I'll use both, how's that sound. I'm a bit of a purist.

But today I'm going to warn you, there's a bit of meat and potatoes. Going to be a little bit more of a study, but I think its valuable and if you're watching on TV, I'm going to just challenge you to stick with us through this process. I believe God has a great word for you.

And that word for all of us is this: Yahweh Yireh, Jehovah Jireh, God is your provider. You can count on it. Maybe you're here today and you are carrying some big burden into this place. Oral Roberts use to say everybody's a little bit sick. This idea that everybody's got a little something. And you might think today that your little problem doesn't matter to God. I want you to know it does. And maybe you're coming today with a big problem. I want you to know whatever it is, God will provide. He is faithful. It is His name. I am the Lord your provider - Jehovah Jireh.

So maybe you come here and you don't know how your rents going to get paid or you're going to pay that mortgage, maybe you're looking for a job, maybe you've come today and you've got some scary health

problem, maybe it's a spouse, maybe it's your kid, your parents. You just don't know if God's going to provide. Maybe you come today and financially or health wise you're doing fine, but you just don't know how you're going to get through. Maybe you just lost someone in your life and you're like man how am I going to get through this? How am I going to move on with my life. And maybe you come and you're thirsty for a call and you want to do something great for the Lord. I want you to know the Lord is going to provide. He's going to give you everything you need to thrive and be the best version of you possible. Isn't that good news?

And the greatest news is that for all of us who fear death, and all of us will eventually pass on, that God provides heaven for us, and that I can't say enough I feel like the teachings on heaven have diminished a bit. Heaven is a real thing. It is a legit, awesome experience that is true for all of us. It's a little scary thinking of dying because well none of us have done it, quite frankly, but I want you to know that dying is a lot more like waking up than falling asleep, and it's the great equalizer. And when that happens, when we enter into glory, you're going to get an incredible life with the Lord that will never end.

And so today if you don't know Jesus Christ, I just want to invite you to commit your life to Him so you don't miss out on this provision: on God's blessing, God's calling, God's opportunity, on heaven and on connecting deeply with the church. Today's a wonderful day to become a Christian, amen? Nothing like knowing Jesus.

And today we're studying this idea that God is our provider, and He is. God is going to bless you, God wants to bless you, so guess what: today you can smile. You can just smile and you can know for sure it's going to be okay. You don't have to worry. God is good. He is faithful. I admit freely and willingly God's timing is annoying. Oh man is it annoying. It is 11<sup>th</sup> hour. You got to be patient, you got to wait for it, but God's different than us. He sees things differently than we do. He is a put a seed in the ground kind of God and watch it grow, and nurture it. We are a manufacture, over the counter, quick, we want it now. God's not that way. He's a God of process. He's a God who is journeying with you.

And remember, you're never going to cease, either, so even though a year or two or five years can feel like a long time, for God, he's very old and it is not a lot of time for Him. So I want to encourage you to be patient. And I more so want to even encourage you to expand your faith, to get an even bigger vision than what you have. I often think that sometimes the delays that we see are because our dream isn't big enough, our prayer isn't big enough, our ask isn't big enough. God is a big God. He wants to do big things for big people like you and me. He believes in you and He sees the best in you. He's called you and you are alive for a reason, so expand your dream and expand your prayer.

Pastor Joel told a story that I thought was amazing. There was once this pro golfer who was invited by the King of Saudi Arabia to go out to Saudi Arabia and go golfing with him in like a pro tournament for four

days. So the four of them like really hit it off. This American golfer and the King of Saudi Arabia. They become like great friends, they're golfing every day, and this king is just lavishing everything on this pro golfer. He flew him out to Saudi Arabia on his private jet, he put him up in his castle, and all these great things are happening.

They had the most amazing week ever and as the week is coming to an end, the King of Saudi Arabia is walking this pro golfer back to his private jet, and he says 'you know I've had such an amazing time. I want to give you a gift. I'll give you anything you want. Just ask for it and you can have it.' And this pro golfer says to him 'no way, absolutely not. You've already given me the most amazing gift ever. This has been one of the most amazing week of my life. I couldn't ask for anything more.'

The king keeps saying 'no, please, let me give you something. Just ask for something. I'll give you whatever you want.' Finally the pro golfer says 'well you know I collect golf clubs, so maybe you could send me a cool golf club or something.'

He gets on the plane and he's flying back to LA, and on the flight home, he keeps thinking what kind of club is he going to give me. Am I going to get like a golden putter with like diamonds in it or something. Weeks go by and he's wondering what's going on because he's kind of like wondering what this king is going to give him. And after about a month, a package comes in the mail with a certified letter, and inside is

the deed to a five hundred acre golf club here in America. He doesn't even have to fly to Saudi Arabia.

And Joel's point in telling that story, and it's a good one is that kings think differently than we normal folk. When you ask a king for a golf club, you might get something more than you expect. It's like the old joke about Bill Gates when he says something like 'I need to remind myself that when my wife says buy china, she means dishes.'

So my point here is that God wants to bless you in bigger ways than you can imagine. And it's very likely that whatever it is you're actually praying for, when it arrives from the king, it's going to be a lot better and a lot more awesome than you think. And I want you to put your hope in that because that waiting, that in-between of waiting for God's provision is a painful experience. Things can get into our head, into our hearts, negative thoughts. We can get into a place where we think maybe; we start to doubt God or we give up on our dream or give up all together. And sometimes we re-appraise our lives and we make good, wise decisions, but so often we just throw away our miracle because we're impatient.

So my hope for you today is to get a bigger vision for what God has for you. God's a very big God and likes to do impossible things. And I want to encourage you to get a big, big, fresh vision, and to believe. That's what Jesus asks of us. Just believe. Just believe and hold that dream in your heart.

It reminds me of when the four minute mile was broken. For years athletes thought it was impossible for the four minute mile to be broken. I heard, I haven't seen, but I heard that there was even scientific studies proving it was humanly impossible to run the four minute mile. And of course in 1954, an athlete from Oxford University, Roger Bannister broke that record by half a second, and the whole world, it was considered one of the greatest moments in sports history. And wouldn't you believe it, right after that record was broken it was like bam, bam, bam, bam, bam, bam, bam, bam, bam. Like a bunch of people broke it. Why? Because so many people were limited up here. They didn't believe that breaking a four minute mile was possible. They tried to get their best time possible, but once someone proved to them that it was possible, once they became possibility runners, once they believed, then they could do it.

And for many of us, we just lost our belief, we lost our faith. We're not sure God's going to do it, God wants to do it, we're not sure God exists or we don't know if He's going to come through for us. And I want to encourage you, thrust all those thoughts out of your mind and just believe and have faith and endure because your miracle's going to be so awesome and I can't wait to celebrate with you when it comes. If you believe it, say amen.

Today we're talking about the story of Abraham and it's probably the most important story in understanding the bible as a whole. Abram, is what he was originally called, is called in Genesis chapter 12 out of the

land of his fathers. Abram is 75 years old, and he's grown up in the Middle East in a pagan household, doesn't know God or anything. And after his father dies, God tells Abram, leave the land of your fathers into the land I am giving you. Now this is a big deal because in those days to leave your father or leave the land of your father meant to leave the culture, leave his gods, leave his household, leave everything. Abandon it all because I Yahweh, have something better for you.

There's actually a legend, I doubt its true, but there's this legend about a young Abram that he had this inkling that all these idols they were worshipping were false and even harmful, and that there might be just one great God out there. And to play a trick on his dad, he went into his dad's idol house where he had all these various idols: the god of trees and the god of fire and the god of this and that, and he took a club and he destroyed every idol except one. And he put that club in the hands of the one idol that was left so that when his father came in he was totally baffled and he looked around and he thought what is going on here? And Abram says well clearly that idol took out his rivals. And his father says no, it's impossible. And Abram says well why is it impossible? He says these idols, they don't talk, they don't think, they don't move, they don't do anything, they're just a bunch of clay. I made them myself. And to which Abram famously says then why do you bow down to them?

So there's this idea that even at a young age, Abram has this inkling that there's something up with this paganism and this worship of

weird gods that don't exist. Remember, too, that in those days the view of the heavens, pagan view of gods and goddesses were that they were all crazy, like absolutely nuts and had tons of power, and they were warring against each other, and they were messing around with people, and so a lot of people were caught in this scenario where they're like trying to appease these crazy gods in the sky over this and that.

And it got to a point where they were actually sacrificing children, their own kids in the hopes that everybody won't die, you know, to the volcano god or to the grain god or whatever. And that's why paganism always devolves people from their dignity and paganism always goes into violence. And this is what was happening in Abram's day across the world.

And into this Yahweh, the only God. None of these pagan gods are real. I feel like I need to say that. Some of you are like are there gods? There's not. There's one God and this one God, Yahweh, comes into Abraham's life and he says Abram I'm going to call you out of the land of your fathers, I'm going to call you into a new land, the land of Canaan and I'm going to bless you.

In fact, let me read the scripture because its beautiful, because this promise is not just for Abram, it's for you. And He says, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. And I will make your name great. And you will be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you. And I will curse those who curse you. And all the peoples of the earth will

be blessed through you.” So into a violent, destructive, evil world, God is still at work to save His creation and to do it through a family, Abram’s family. And He chooses this one guy and says through him I’m going to create a new family, and I will be their God and they will be my people, and through them they’re going to bless the whole world. It looks like this: I God, am going to bless them, and they’re going to bless everybody else. They will be blessed to be a blessing. I will bless you so you’ll bless others. And this is your promise, by the way. God’s going to bless you, so that you can be a blessing to others. He’s going to bless you and when that happens, you’re going to bless others as you always have.

So Abram leaves his house and it says he believed God and it was accredited to him as righteousness. He says to God how will I know that this will come to pass? And God makes covenant with him. Now I want to tell you something. This is an amazing story because when God calls Abram out of the land of his fathers, do you know how old he is? He’s 75. Okay so maybe you’re here today and you’re thinking I’m retired, I’m at a stage in my life. Look Abram’s whole life, like everything before 75 almost doesn’t even.. it’s not even written or talked about. His real calling begins when he’s 75 years old. And it’s a story that’s still affecting everyone’s life in this room. So a 75-year-old man is called to be the father of many nations, and God says he’ll make covenant with Abram. Now this is a really, really big deal because covenant in those days was a sacred promise made in blood, and I know that’s a little weird for us modern

Americans to talk about but it was a way that two families would become one.

Picture it this way in Abram's pagan world. You'd have two families. You would have one family over here, a family of farmers, they're really good at growing, they're really good at cattle, they're really good at grain, but they're so vulnerable because they're chubby and they're wimpy and they're like hobbits. They're just like fresh for the picking. And then you got another family over here, a family of warriors. They've got armor, they can blacksmith and they've got horses, and they're really dangerous, they're like, you know, they're always hungry, and so they have to keep raiding to eat.

So then all of a sudden these two families say hey, why don't we pair this up. Why don't we work this out together and negotiate here. And so what happens is they don't just have a business deal, they become one family so you get this family of farmers, and a family of warriors, and they say we will become one. And the way that happens is through a process called covenant. And what they do because in the pagan world blood meant life, as weird as it sounds to us, they were essentially saying, even though they have different DNA, we're going to be one blood. One blood, one family, one people. They would sacrifice a set of animals, and there would be carcasses on either side and a basically mini sidewalk filled with blood, as gross as that sounds. And the father of the warrior household would take off his coat, which was a

sign of honor, and he would hand it to the farmer, and the farmer would take off his coat and he would hand it to the father of the warrior family. And the two would pace back and forth with both families watching, sometimes music playing, and go through this long process of saying a covenant. Something like the warrior will say 'no matter what, I will always protect you. I will always make sure that you will be safe. Everyone in our family, we will give our last breath defending you and making sure you and everyone in your family is safe. We are one family.'

The farmer, in the same way, will go back and forth and he would say 'you will have everything you need to eat. We will grow food for you, we will care for you, you will never be in want even if we have to give you the flesh off our bones so you won't starve, we will do whatever we can to be there for you. We are a family. We are a family. We are a family. We are one blood.'

And what's amazing is when God calls Abram, he says I will make covenant with you. I will be your God and you will be my people. What does that mean? You're going to be my family. Abraham's family is God's family and God is the head. And being the father of this house, He will provide, and that's exactly what He says. He says Abram, you will be the father of many nations. I know you're super old, but you're going to have a kid. You're going to have more descendants than there are stars in the sky and grains of sand on the seashore. And you will be blessed, and I will make your name great, and you will be above and not beneath, and

you will be blessed and be a blessing to the whole world. What a promise. I will bless you to be a blessing. I will bless you to be a blessing. I will bless you to be a blessing.

And Abraham believed and it was accredit to him his righteousness. And his name went from Abram, exalted father, to Abraham, the father of many nations, and so it is.

Now this covenant is an amazing thing because Abram now has this thing with God and this promise, but I just want to reiterate in this story, he's already, especially for those days, an old man. How long is it from this covenant until he has his son Isaac? Do you know? It's not one year, it's not three years, it's not five years, it's not ten years. Twenty-five years from leaving the land of his father, given this promise, to when God fulfills. God's timing is annoying. Seventy-five to a hundred. That's a long time. You're here today, you feel like God put a promise in your heart, be patient. Don't throw away your miracle. God's, in a way, crazy. It's crazy the stuff that He does through people. And that's what makes living life with Him so wonderful. He's so good. He loves you so much. He's not given up on you. He's going to get you to your destiny. You can smile and enjoy it today.

So it takes 25 years. Abraham is now almost a hundred years old and he's moping. And he's saying I'm an old man, I'm going to have to leave all of my belongings to my servant, all of my wealth I've accumulated, I've got to leave it to this servant. And God visits Abraham

and he says next year you're going to have a kid. And you know what Abraham does? He laughs. What did that sound like to you? Okay, that's what you said 25 years ago. Right? And then God says truly, it's going to be next year. It sounds like that brother-in-law that always keeps saying he's going to do that or that.

And then Sarah hears God say this because she's standing at the tent and she laughs. He says your wife, who's 90 years old, is going to have a baby. And then you hear Sarah go (LAUGHING) and this is actually what the Bible says. God says to Abraham, did she laugh? And then Sarah says because she was afraid of the Lord, she says no, I didn't laugh. And then the Bible says the Lord then looks at her and says she laughed. And that is how the chapter ends. That's it. Like that's it.

Incidentally, this 90-year-old woman, believe it or not, is pregnant and has a baby, and the baby's name is Isaac, and the name Isaac means "he laughs." That's why. And the great thing about it is it's like when you laugh at God when He says He's going to give you a miracle, but that laugh is going to turn into joy, like ohhhhhhh! It's a different kind of laugh. That's going to make it to TV, isn't it. Well anyway.

And so the laugh becomes joy. It's a laughter of joy, just being elated that God is faithful, God is true, God will do what He said He would do. He fulfills His promises to us. You can trust the Lord. You can trust Him. It's going to be all right, I promise.

The climax of the story is then when in a bizarre event; you know God's developed this relation with Abraham. You see this loving, nurturing God who's going to provide, who's going to care, who's going to protect, and then He says something insane, horrible. Something that sounds even evil. God says take your son Isaac and sacrifice him on an altar to prove to me you're really in this. The crazy thing about that it is that poor Abraham would have thought oh, I get it, you're just like all those other crazy, angry, horrible gods. You kill children. I wonder. The Bible doesn't say that, but you have Abraham walking Isaac, his son, beloved son, his treasure, the fulfillment of his promise, and it says that Abraham trusted God so much he believed that if he killed his own son, He would raise him from the dead. That's how much he trusted God.

And little Isaac says to Abraham, father, where is the sacrifice? If we're going to go make a sacrifice to the Lord, where is it? And Abraham says to his son, the Lord will provide. And as they ascend that mountain, I don't know what is going through Isaac's mind. This whole journey has been bizarre, to say the least. He binds his beloved son and lays him on the altar, and pulls out a knife and holds it in the air, and an angel appears and says Abraham, no! Don't do it! Don't lay a hand on him! I have provided a sacrifice. There was a ram in the corner. And it says that from that day, that mountain, which is now Jerusalem, that mountain was called Jehovah Jireh – the Lord provides. The Lord provides. See this was God's dramatic, prophetic way of telling Abraham he is not like his

father's pagan, violent gods. He doesn't ask for human sacrifice. In a world where we have to appease the gods, this is a God who takes care of, blesses and provides for His children. He's not angry at you, guys. He's not angry at you. You don't have to do anything to appease Him. You don't have to try harder. You don't have to feel guilty or beat yourself up. The Lord provides, not you, and that's good news. The Lord provides!

And of course this is a very Christian verse because in a world that asks for; pagan gods ask for their servants to kill their children, God says I will lay my life down for you. Greater love has no man than this that he gives his life for his friends, and that's what Jesus did for you.

You come today and you say I know God wants to bless me. I know God wants to do good things for me, but Bobby, you don't know. I've lost my faith so many times. I've doubted God. I've hurt people, I've messed up, I have a rough past, can I just tell you, all that stuff is not coming from the Lord, that's coming from the enemy. The Bible says the enemy is called the accuser of the brethren. His number one goal is to make you feel shame. God's number one goal, the Bible says, I think the Holy Spirit is called, what? The comforter. The Holy Spirit is the comforter. He's here to help us and comfort us in those in-between's when we doubt God, when we wonder what is going on. The Holy Spirit enters into our lives to give us just enough to endure the suffering of the in-between, of the doubt, of the wondering where God is going to be.

The Bible says even when we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself. And maybe you come today and you say yeah, yeah, Bobby, I believe that blessing does mean heaven, but all that other stuff, look I know a lot of people have taken this way too far, but blessing does mean material blessing. It means health. It means thriving. It means being blessed in your relationships. It means living every day with joy. It means being successful. It means being a good leader. It means growing personally. These are things God really wants for you, and that's what the Bible says. A lot of pastors take a lot of pride in what they don't have, but God wants to bless you.

In fact, if you want to see an example of what blessing looks like in a biblical sense, let me read Deuteronomy 28 over you, and this is a promise to those who do what the Lord wants them to do. It says: "You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country." And I want you to just receive this right now, even as you're listening to it. "The fruit of your womb will be blessed and the crops of your land, and the young of your livestock, and the calves of your herds, and lambs of your flocks." That sounds pretty material to me. How about you?

It keeps going: "Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and you will be blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that your enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction, but they will flee from you in seven directions. The Lord will

send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord God will bless you in the land He is giving you. The Lord will establish you as His holy people as He promised an oath if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to Him. Then all the peoples on the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock, the crops of your ground in the land He swore to the ancestors to give you. The Lord will open up the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty to send rain on your land and season and bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations, but you will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head and not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top and never at the bottom.” Yes! That’s what it means to be blessed.

We think of blessing as just like, oh you know. Blessed means everything. That all of heaven is poured out in your life now. And the good news is that although that passage talks a lot about works, Paul promises us in Galatians that those promises made to Abraham are now not made through our works, but through faith. And he points to Abraham and he says for it was accredited; he believed God. Faith. And it was what? Accredited to him as righteousness. He does this whole thing on not being like Hagar, and Ishmael, and instead being like Isaac –

receiving the covenant, not through works, but through faith. That if you simply believe all these blessings will be poured out on you through Jesus Christ. The actual text says, “So in Christ Jesus, you are all children through faith.” Say I’m a child of God. (AUDIENCE: I’m a child of God) Believe it.

“For all of you who are baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ,” and here is the famous line, and this should mean something to you now, “you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the covenant.” Did you catch that? That covenant is yours, guys. That’s yours. That promise. That’s yours. That’s good news.

They called that hill Jehovah Jireh, Yahweh Yireh, the Lord provides because they wanted it to be a memory that every time they ascended the holy hill to the temple, they would be reminded that whatever they lack, God would provide them in a double portion. And that’s God’s promise for you today.

So you’re here today, maybe you’re worried, maybe you’re stressed out, we’re going to give it to the Lord. And maybe you’re not a believer and this promise isn’t for you. I want to invite you to receive Jesus Christ. Take hold of this promise today. Why would you go a single day without living in the promise of the resurrected Jesus Christ.

In fact, I just want to offer that to everyone, and if you're here today and you want to receive Christ as your Savior, we're just going to invite everybody. Just close your eyes, hold your hands like this, and I'm going to invite you to pray with me. We're all going to say this together: Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I am the righteousness of Christ. I believe it. I receive your Holy Spirit. I receive your life and forgiveness. I will follow you the rest of my life. I trust you, God in Jesus' name, amen. I believe if you prayed that on TV or here this morning, you're a Christian. And I want to ask you just to lean into that. Maybe you say man, I don't know if I believe all this stuff. God just says He needs one percent. Well He says the faith of a mustard seed. I say one percent. The faith of a mustard seed. It's just a small amount. If just one percent of you believe and like 99% of you is like Nietzsche and atheist, then that's enough. God can use that one percent to reap incredible rewards in your life. And I just am so proud of you.

And I just want to challenge you to do that because I love you, and I know it'll be so awesome for you.