

**DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 says .....2Chron 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 to ...His 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 Jehovan 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 it ....live by it.....And He will empower you to do so.

