

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 3/1/10

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, Yahweh-Yireh, "The Lord Will Provide"

Verse of the Week:

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide, and to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." Genesis 22:14

One of the greatest worries of athletes is how they will survive when their playing days are over. For many years, they are provided for by college programs or by pro sports organizations. But sooner or later (sooner for most) the athlete becomes a "has been" and is out of school or off the payroll. Who will provide for him then?

Any player (or non-player) who trusts God will have his needs taken care of. The compound names of Yahweh are associated with historical incidents and demonstrate His character in meeting human needs. One of the greatest names is Yahweh Yireh, or "The LORD Will Provide." The background of this name comes from one of the most significant and touching stories in Scripture.

God promised and gave Abraham and Sarah a son (Isaac), even though they were physically too old to have children. God promised to bless all nations through Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), and Isaac was to be in the line of blessing (Genesis 21:12). All of Abraham's hopes and plans were bound up in Isaac. Then God told Abraham to go to Mt. Moriah and offer Isaac as a sacrifice to Yahweh. What a strange order! Abraham was to kill the son of the promises of God! His heart was as heavy as lead—but he obeyed. He placed the wood on Isaac's back and carried fire and a butcher knife to the place God designated. Obedient Isaac grew worried along the way, but Abraham assured him that "God would provide." Did he know that even if Isaac were killed God would raise him to life? Just before Abraham plunged the knife into his son for the sacrifice, the Angel of the Lord (possibly Jesus Christ Himself!) spoke from heaven. "Do not lay a hand upon the boy," He said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your only son" (Genesis 22:12). Looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket. He took the ram and offered it as a substitute. Then Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh, or "The LORD will provide." Many years later, Solomon built a magnificent temple on Mt. Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1). In this temple, the priests continually offered up animal sacrifices to Yahweh, who promised to provide for them.

Hundreds of years later, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, was marched outside the city of Jerusalem carrying a wooden cross. Nathan Store maintains that the Mt. Moriah of which Abraham spoke (Genesis 22:4) "became the site of Calvary and the scene of that grand and awful sacrifice of God's only begotten and well-beloved Son, who was put under judgment for sin, and became our substitute." True to His Word, the Lord had provided a sacrifice once and for all! Though we don't know how much detail Abraham knew, we know he rejoiced at the thought of seeing the day of Jesus Christ and was glad (John 8:56)!

The picture which Abraham saw in Isaac had been completed in Jesus! The agony of his heart as he prepared his son for sacrifice was minuscule compared to the hurt felt by Yahweh in giving His own Son for our sin. How terrible is sin that such a penalty is required! How thankful we are to

be provided with such a Savior! What a wonderful heavenly Father we have! His name is Yahweh-Yireh, The Lord who Provides!

Time Out:

- (1) Study Hebrews 10:4-11.
 - Is it possible for animal blood to take away sin?
 - What did Jesus provide for us?
 - Whose will was it that Jesus die for sin?
 - How many deaths must Jesus die to pay for sin?
- (2) Study Hebrews 11:17-18.
 - What was God doing to Abraham when He commanded him to sacrifice Isaac?
 - What did Abraham reason would happen if he did kill Isaac?
 - Was Isaac a willing or unwilling sacrifice?
 - Was Jesus a willing or unwilling sacrifice?
- (3) Consider this statement: A test is not a test if you know it is only a test. How does this apply to Abraham? How does this apply to you in your trials?
- (4) If Yahweh-Yireh provides such a wonderful sacrifice to cover our sins, can He not be trusted to provide for any other need?