

“PROVIDER:Redemption”

Scripture: Psalm 107:1-9, 33-38

Graphics: ram, thanksgiving, harvest, provision

Big Truth: God is the provider of everything in our lives. We give thanks for the blessings that we receive from God. Often, however, we stop at giving thanks for the material possessions and circumstances in our lives. God provides all those things, but even more. God provides us with redemption from trouble, covenant promises for the future, and salvation for eternity.

Focus Phrase: Jehovah Jireh provides redemption for every area of trouble in my life through Jesus.

1. Introduction

A. PRAY! (Jesus, You are Lord...)

B. Today I'm excited to begin a brand new sermon series called PROVIDER.

- i. One of my favorite aspects of our loving and holy God is that God is Provider of all things. Like a loving father who knows the needs of his family and graciously and lavishly meets those needs, our God is the all-powerful and all-loving heavenly Father who knows EVERY need WE have and meets EVERY need with exactly the right provision.
- ii. As a way of orienting us to who God is, in the Old Testament, God is known by many names. Those names are mostly based on the characteristics of God that are evident in particular times and places. Names like:
 - a. Jehovah Elohim, which means God my Creator...the powerful hand of God who created all things.
 - b. Jehovah Rapha is The God who heals - heals our physical bodies, our relationships, and our world.
 - c. Or Jehovah Shalom, which is God our Peace - our wholeness.
 - d. Or Jehovah Roi - the God who sees me.
 - e. But one of my favorite names for God in the OT and the focus of this series is **Jehovah Jireh - The God who Provides.**
- iii. We first encounter this name and characteristic for God in the book of Genesis, chapter 22. You may recall this story about Abraham and Isaac. God called Abraham to be the Father of many nations...the one from whom God's chosen people, the Israelites, would descend. One day God asked Abraham to take his young son Isaac up on a high mountain to make a sacrifice to God, to establish and prove Abraham's faith in God. As the story unfolds in Genesis 22, we begin to see that God asked Abraham to make a sacrifice, alright. The sacrifice was to be Isaac, his son. So, Abraham prepared the altar of sacrifice, laid his precious boy on the altar, ready to do everything that God has asked. But right at the last moment,

God stopped Abraham's knife from harming Isaac. And in that moment God said...(well, let me read it from Genesis 22:12-14): "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

- C. Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will provide.
- D. We're just now moving into a season of thanksgiving and celebration for all that God has provided. We are blessed. We are grateful. We are filled with joy. We sang Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee this morning!
- E. But the season of thanksgiving has the tendency, in our lives, to be reduced to the things we have, the ways we are blessed with jobs, cars, time, family, etc. None of those are wrong or bad, but the incredible truth is that **God has so much more to provide than material things. In fact, the greater things that Jehovah Jireh provides make the material things seem insignificant, even as we give thanks for the blessings.**
- F. Jehovah Jireh is the Lord who provides **redemption** in any trouble...provides **covenant promises** for the future...and provide **salvation for eternity**.
- G. So, we may be thankful and express overflowing gratitude for all the material things in our lives (which are many), but God is inviting us, in this season, to go deeper and wider as our Jehovah Jireh...to give thanks and praise to God for deliverance and hope and security.
- H. All those - deliverance, hope, and security - are found in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Redeemer, our New Covenant, and our Savior! For all that God provides, we give thanks!
- I. Each week, we'll dive into an Old Testament scripture that will help orient our lives to our Jehovah Jireh...and today we'll start in Psalm 107 - The Lord will provide Redemption from trouble.
- J. So...grab your bible and let's dive in. I encourage you to bring your bible each week so you can be reading along and making notes, even.
- K. In your notes, write this: **Jehovah Jireh provides redemption for every area of trouble in my life through Jesus.**
- L. And, as we'll see, it's because of God's steadfast love that He provides redemption in every area of trouble in our lives.

2. Scripture

A. READ Psalm 107:1-9, 33-38

- B. Psalm 107 has a great structure...it's got good bones!
- C. Four times in this psalm, the author tells of the nature of some sort of trouble the people are in, they cry out to God in desperation, God delivers the people, and they express gratitude.
- D. We only read the first cycle this morning, but the other three are similar.
- E. Distress - desperate prayer - deliverance - gratitude. If we had to use one word to describe this whole cycle of distress-desperation-deliverance-and gratitude, it would be **REDEMPTION**.
- F. Redemption is defined as *the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil*. Or, it's *the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt*.
- G. Think about redeeming bottles and cans for the 5 cent deposit. You clearing a debt or regaining the value in something.
- H. The Old Testament concept of redemption is all about **righting something that's wrong or unjust**. It's about taking a bad situation and doing what God commands to make it right.
 - i. Nowhere do we see that more clearly than in the story of Naomi and Ruth. Naomi was a Jewish woman whose husband died and who was left with her two sons. They both married Moabite women (pagans from the region of Moab). Both Naomi's sons then died, leaving only Naomi and her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.
 - ii. Of the two daughter-in-law, only Ruth stayed with Naomi. In time, Ruth married a wealthy man named Boaz - who was a kinsman of Ruth's late husband (a relative bound by God to help Ruth). Boaz was (listen now) he was Ruth's Kinsman Redeemer - the one that would redeem Ruth from her trouble and provide for her. They eventually had a son, Obed, who became the grandfather of King David and the ancestor of Jesus, OUR Redeemer.
 - iii. Boaz did what God commanded him to do to save Ruth from trouble - to clear an injustice and redeem her and her family.
- I. The psalmist in our scripture for today described the people's trouble as being lost in the wilderness and not being able to find their way to an inhabited town. In that culture, an inhabited town meant safety and people and provision. They were hungry and thirsty.
- J. They cried out to the Lord in their distress.
- K. And God delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way until they reached an inhabited town.
- L. And they gave thanks for the provision of redemption.

- M. That pattern repeats 3 more times in this psalm...and then we get to verse 33, where the psalmist gave praise to God for providing redemption for the people in their trouble.
- i. When people aren't doing what God asks, He has the power to make our lives parched and thirsty...SO THAT we want to move toward Him and His provision in our lives.
 - ii. BECAUSE, not only does God have the power to make deserts, BUT He also has the power to turn deserts into pools of water and parched land into springs of water.
 - iii. He invites the hungry to come and live...to establish places to live and thrive...to sow fields for crops, plant vineyards for wine, and yield fruits that sustain.
 - iv. God even goes so far as to bless His people to multiply and their cattle don't decrease. Whew! I hate it when my cattle decrease! Amen?
- N. Jehovah Jireh provides redemption for every area of trouble in my life. And for those who are followers of Jesus, He does that **through** Jesus.

3. Application

- A. What areas of your life, right now, need redemption? Or let me ask that in a different way? What areas of trouble do you have in your life right now?
- B. Because it's in THOSE places of trouble that Jehovah Jireh - the One whose steadfast love (hesed in the Hebrew) endures forever - He wants to meet you and PROVIDE redemption.
- C. You've never heard of a guy named Matt Malone. He spends his weekends dumpster diving behind retail electronics stores and high-end department stores, retrieving the appliances, electronics, and equipment that have been discarded by those big box stores - most of them in perfect condition. Matt then takes those items, and sells them for a profit. Matt reported that if were to quit his day job as a security consultant and dumpster dive full time, he could make a quarter million dollars per year by redeeming things that have been discarded and which aren't being used for their intended purpose.
- D. Dumpster-divers like Malone are following the ancient, even biblical tradition we saw with Abraham and Isaac, Ruth and Boaz, in Psalm 107 and throughout the Old Testament.
- E. He is following the tradition in the New Testament through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- F. The Scriptures depict God as being something of a dumpster-diver, as a God who transforms trash into treasure. So many examples. As the author of Psalm 107 put it, God is a go'el, or Redeemer: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble."

- G. You can think of the people of Israel and even yourself as quality merchandise that's accumulated a few dents and dings in this life. Yet, God knows you and you retain your original potential to be a child of God and follower of Jesus.
- H. The Lord can be counted upon to “gather you in from the lands,” those distant places where you may feel you’ve been exiled.
- I. You are, of course, not a vacuum cleaner and computer printer. You're a human being, created in the image of God. You hunger and thirst. Your soul faints within you, sometimes. You cry out to the Lord in your trouble, and the Lord answers you.
- J. God redeems you through the blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, from any trouble in which you find yourself.
- K. In fact, and maybe even more common, God can take any area of thirst or parched land and create pools of healing water and springs of living water.
- L. So, I ask again, do you have an area in your life, right now, that seems like it’s become dry? An area where you used to be passionate for God, but you’ve lost your spark for it?
- M. Maybe you’re in a season of change or upcoming change and you aren’t sure you know how to get to that place of safety and security...where God provides.
- N. God can and will provide redemption for you in ANY trouble.
- O. We know that redemption comes through a process of identifying our trouble, crying out to God, being delivered, and then praising God for redemption! So, here’s some application for us for today:
- P. **Identify your areas of trouble.**
 - i. Maybe there’s an area of sin that has you in a dry and weary land.
 - ii. Maybe your area of trouble is because of a past decision or future worry.
 - iii. Whatever it is, God already knows it, so it’s safe to let Jehovah Roi - the God who see me - in on it and tell him what’s troubling you. Then,
- Q. **Cry out to God in desperate prayer.**
 - i. “That’s not dignified, Pastor Steve!” You’re right. It isn’t. Crying out to God can be ugly and emotional and gut-wrenching sometimes. But it’s real. And gritty. And liberating!
 - ii. And it’s the only way for you to let God know that you know what He knows. Let me say that again. Prayer is the only way for you to let God know that you know what He knows about your trouble. Pray!
- R. Then **Receive the Deliverance from your trouble!**
 - i. I don’t know what that looks like for you, but God does.

- ii. God will lead you in a straight path, right to the place of safety and security and you'll be delivered from that trouble.
 - iii. I know that because He's done that in His people's lives throughout all time and He's done that in my life. And I know He's done that in yours.
- S. Then the only thing left to do is **Praise God for the Redemption.**
- i. Spend this month giving thanks for all you have. But, go deeper...give thanks for the redemption of God through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer!
 - ii. List out the ways that God has walked with you through difficult times of trouble and what He taught you on the other side.
 - iii. And simply say, "Thank you, Lord."

4. Conclusion

- A. You are not a vacuum cleaner (I love that line) :)
- B. Yet, God wants to redeem you so that you can be used for His holy purposes in this life.
- C. Jehovah Jireh is with us...The Lord who Provides.
- D. This week, spend time talking about and reflecting on any areas of trouble. Then let Jesus come alongside you to redeem you.
- E. He paid the FULL PRICE of whatever needs to be redeemed.
- F. Our work is to let God use us from that place of redemption, so the world will know that they TOO can be redeemed by Jesus in any trouble THEY are in.
- G. And we don't have to look very far to see that all of us are in some areas of trouble that need redemption.
- H. Jehovah Jireh is ready to provide that redemption. Give thanks!
- I. Be delivered!
- J. Let's pray...
- K. PRAY!**