

## MESSAGE FOUR: JEHOVAH ROHI AND JEHOVAH JIREH

### SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Psalm 23:1-6 (NASB)

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### Genesis 22:9-14 (NASB)

9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

### MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on God's names Jehovah Rohi and Jehovah Jireh is to help you understand that He is your faithful Shepherd who will protect and guide you and to help you trust that He will provide for your physical and spiritual needs.

### INTRODUCTION:

Many of us have watched one or all of the Superman movies. In one particular scene there was a burning inferno, and Superman swooped in and saved a man from the fire. After he picked up the man, Superman flew across the sky to take

the man home. But Superman noticed the man was trembling. Superman asked what was wrong, and the man said, "I'm afraid. I'm way up here in the sky, and if I fall, I'm going to die." Superman responded, "Do you think I have enough power to deliver you from the fire but not enough power to deliver you safely home?" In other words, "Though I was able to get you out of the fire, you think I'm going to drop you on the route home."

You see, some of us have trusted the Lord to keep us from the fire, but we're not sure He can bring us safely home. We believe in Him for eternity, but we just don't have much confidence that He can take care of the fires in our lives. We know He will take us to heaven; we're just not sure He's got our back on earth. He got us out of hell, but we're not sure He can handle history. If you can identify with these statements, then this sermon is for you!

As we explore God's names Jehovah Rohi and Jehovah Jireh, let's begin to see Him and trust Him as our loving Shepherd and our faithful Provider here on earth—even when the fires seem so hot that our faith might melt. First, let's turn to Psalm 23 and learn about our Good Shepherd.

### SERMON POINTS:

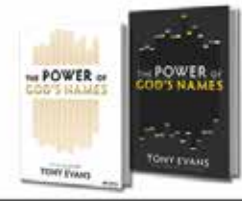
#### 1. TO UNDERSTAND YOUR SHEPHERD, JEHOVAH ROHI, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU ARE LIKE A SHEEP.

- Sheep are dumb.
  - If one sheep walks in a circle, going nowhere, all the sheep will follow until they fall over from exhaustion.
  - If the shepherd doesn't lead his sheep, they will walk aimlessly and get into trouble.
- Sheep are defenseless.
  - Sheep have no way to defend themselves against an attack from wolves.
  - The shepherd must scare away predators.
- Sheep are dirty
  - Because of their shape and their thick coats, sheep cannot clean themselves.
  - If the shepherd doesn't clean the sheep, they will start to smell and get sick

our society's problem  
is not solely our *government's* problem.  
it is **the church's** problem.  
it is *our* problem.



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- Jehovah Rohi comforts us and gives us more than we need.
- David experienced God's overwhelming blessings and watched as He fulfilled His promises to guide and provide for David.
- Through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, we have comfort, guidance, and eternal assurance.

## 6. TRUST JEHOVAH JIREH AS YOUR PROVIDER.

- Jehovah Jireh either allows or creates situations so that we will trust Him as our Provider.
  - God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:1).
  - Isaac was the son through whom God had promised to bless Abraham and create the nation of Israel (Genesis 12:1-3).
- The only way to experience God's provision is by obeying Him when He tests us.
  - When God's difficult command came, Abraham didn't ask his friends for advice or think about it for a while.
- Jehovah Jireh is sovereign and powerful, and His will is beyond our understanding.
  - Abraham trusted that God would fulfill His promise to build a nation through Isaac; Abraham said he and Isaac would both return (Genesis 22:5).
  - Because Sarah had miraculously conceived Isaac in her old age, Abraham knew God could raise Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19).
- When faced with a choice between trusting the Provider or holding on to what He has provided, what will you choose?
  - Abraham had waited a long time for his promised son, Isaac.
  - God asked Abraham to give Isaac back to Him in worship.

7. BELIEVE GOD HAS A PLAN EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

- When Jehovah Jireh tests you and wants you to trust Him in a confusing situation, He already knows what He's going to do.
  - Abraham trusted that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice (Genesis 22:8).
  - Abraham still obeyed God's command to sacrifice his son, even though the angel stopped

- him before he killed Isaac (Genesis 22:9-11).
- When you obey God and pass His test, He will reveal His will, and it will be better than anything you could imagine.
  - Abraham's test proved to Abraham the strength of his faith (Genesis 22:12).
  - After the test Abraham experienced God's amazing provision of a ram as a sacrifice in place of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:13).

### 8. ENTRUST YOURSELF TO JEHOVAH JIREH'S PROVISION.

- Keep track of God's provision in your life to remind you of His faithfulness.
  - Abraham renamed Mount Moriah, where God provided a ram instead of Isaac, Jehovah Jireh (Genesis 22:14).
  - Every time Abraham passed the mountain, he remembered God's provision.
- Put your Isaac on the altar.
  - Examine your heart to determine the thing you're holding tight and don't want to let go—your singleness, your marriage, your career, your health, your money, etc.
  - Are you willing to trust God with your Isaac?
- God's provision follows after we obey.
  - Abraham got Isaac back after he proved his willingness to obey God.
  - God reaffirmed His covenant to make a great nation through Isaac (Genesis 22:16-19).
- God's ultimate provision for our sin came through Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus was crucified on Calvary, which is a few hundred feet from where Isaac sacrificed his only son on Mount Moriah.
  - Isaac is a type of Christ, which means just as Abraham, in a sense, received Isaac back from the dead, Isaac foreshadowed Christ's death and resurrection and God's provision through Him (John 8:56; Hebrews 11:19).

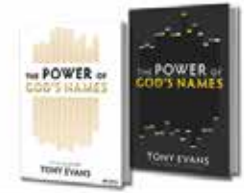
the media, their friends.

Teaching biblical values to children: After they're planted, it takes olive trees fifteen years before they start producing olives. For



# THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

## Sermon Outline



### SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

**TRUST THAT GOD IS YOUR PERSONAL SHEPHERD:** A lot of us have a group faith, but when we're in trouble, what God is doing for others isn't enough for us. We need our own Shepherd. If you have a shirt in your closet that looks like my shirt, we won't really have a lot of confusion because my shirt has a monogram with my initials. In other words, the shirt is my shirt because it has my name on it. Far too many of us have an off-the-rack God. He's the God of everybody, but He's not my God. David had a monogram relationship with God. David called the Lord "my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1) because He knew David by name. As you listen to this sermon, I hope you receive a message for you individually that speaks to your specific situation and your particular circumstance.

**OUR SHEPHERD IS A FULL-SERVICE GOD:** Back in the day we used to have a lot of full-service gas stations. You would pull up, the attendant would come out, and he would ask how much gas you wanted in your tank. Then he would wash the windows, lift up the hood, and check the oil. Unfortunately, you can't find full-service gas stations anymore. You know why? We live in a self-service world now. When we have a problem, we just take care of it ourselves. But David says, "I want you to know my Shepherd is a full-service God. And because of Him, I shall not be in want. He completely covers me." Do you believe in this Shepherd?

**OUR SHEPHERD GIVES US REST:** Do you have any toddlers you have to make lie down? When they're small and you say, "It's nap time," what do you get? You get argumentation and rebellion. But they don't know just how exhausted they really are. When you make them lie down, they will eventually get rest. But they will resist lying down until you force them to lie down. You're not making them lie down to be mean, although they may perceive it that way. You're making them lie down to REST and RECOVER! Have you ever thought maybe the reason God hasn't changed your situation is He's forcing you to lie down? He's making you stay right where you are until you have learned total dependency on Him.

**OUR SHEPHERD GIVES US DIRECTION:** Many of our cars have navigational systems that are designed to take you from where you are to where you want to go. This technology is predicated on a global-positioning device up in outer space that can look at the whole landscape of the world and tell you where everything is located. Now if man can create a machine that can see everything on earth, God, who created

everything, can see everything He has created, as well as every possibility for His creation. If the Lord is your Shepherd, you have a private navigational system, and He will guide you step-by-step to the destination He has planned for you.

**GOD WANTS TO EXPERIENCE OUR OBEDIENCE:** A woman can hear her husband say, "I love you." But if his actions don't make her feel loved, she won't believe it. She wants to experience his love because the experience brings the word love alive. Likewise, God wants to enter the experience of what He already knows. God knew Abraham would obey and sacrifice his son, but He wanted to experience Abraham's choice of the One bestowing the blessing over the blessing itself.

### BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

**WORD STUDY ON JIREH:** The root word for jireh means to see. Abraham named the place where God provided a ram instead of Isaac "The LORD Will Provide" because the word jireh can be translated provide. So what is the relationship between the root to see and the translation to provide? Another word that relates to provide and brings the two meanings together is provision. Vision means to see, but provision means to see beforehand. God sees our need even before we see it, and He already has a plan to meet the need, to provide.

### OUR HEAVENLY SHEPHERD, JEHOVAH ROHI, PROMISES HIS PRESENCE:

In Psalm 23 David recalled the Lord's protection and provision while David lived as a fugitive running from King Saul. But we often forget about the second part of Psalm 23. In verses 5-6 David proclaimed his confidence in God's presence with him every day and in every situation. And not only does God promise to be with His people, but He also gives them His favor and His grace. As Christians, we have received the indwelling Holy Spirit, meaning God's presence dwells in individual believers and in the church as a whole.

### SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you believe Jehovah Rohi is your personal Shepherd.

This sermon will help you trust that as you obey Jehovah Jireh, He will provide for all your basic needs though not necessarily all your wants.

### QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

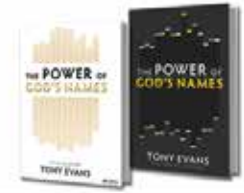
"How do you know when you're spiritually tired? You don't feel like praying. You don't want to read your Bible. You don't





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necessarily come to church. You're just spiritually drained. You need your soul back! And the way He does it is, He makes you lie down by creating scenarios that force total dependency on Him."

"God makes us lie down. He puts us in situations where we are totally dependent upon Him, not because He's trying to be mean but the same reason you take a nap: you're trying to get your strength back. He's trying to restore your soul."

"When God allows you to go through things, and it doesn't make sense, that's because He's getting ready to tell you His name! He's getting ready to let you see something about Him that you had never seen before."

"What is the heart of the test? When faced with a choice between the blessing and the Blessor, what will you choose?"

"What means more to you—the blessing or the Blessor? We can fall so in love with the blessing that it trumps the Blessor."

"At the heart of the test of God revealing His person to you in the contradiction of life, it's always a choice between the blessing and the Blessor. It is a matter of worship."

"Since God cannot compromise His Word, He's going to keep His Word even though the method He's going to use to keep His Word makes absolutely no sense!"

"Do you know your answer could be sitting right next to you, but you'll never know it until God is ready to reveal it?"

"What must God see so that He might provide when you're caught in the contradictions of life? What must God see so that you can name the place in the mess you're in Jehovah Jireh?"

"Delayed obedience becomes immediate disobedience."

"See, what we want is delayed obedience and partial obedience but maximum manifestation!"

"If you are trusting God for your eternity, you ought to be able to trust Him for time because eternity is a lot longer than time."

"Are you willing to trust God with your Isaac, the thing that you want to release the least, the thing that means the most, the thing that you're holding tight and don't want to let go?"

"Loving God means acting on what God said, not just singing songs, praying prayers, and hearing sermons."

"One of the reasons that some of us do not know the name Jehovah Jireh is God is still waiting for you to act on what He said, even though you may not understand how it's going to work out."

"Just as Isaac was put on the altar two thousand years ago, Jesus was put on the altar. And just like Isaac was given back to Abraham, Jesus is given back to His children, and He ever lives to make intercession for the saints. He's in heaven right now ready to become your Jehovah Jireh!"