

The Ark
Altars & Sacrifices
July 28, 2021

Stewardship:

Genesis 22:14
New International Version

¹⁴ 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."

Verse 8: "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.....I recall a Praise song we sang used to sing based on Genesis 22:14:

Jehovah Jireh, my provider, His grace is sufficient for me

My God shall supply all my needs

According to His Riches in Glory

He will give His angels charge over me

Jehovah Jireh cares for me

Have you ever wondered why we should read the Old Testament... what it had to do with us and our way of life and worship?

1 Corinthians 10:11
King James Version

¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Recently I was reminded of a question I asked the Lord a long time ago... why did the people in the Bible keep wandering away from God? Why did they keep turning to idols? Why didn't they trust God?

Think of Israel after God delivered them from Egyptian bondage with plagues, led through the sea on dry ground, fed them in the wilderness brought water out of rocks... miracle after miracle and still they forgot and fell into judgment time after time.

God's Answer:.....also answers why we need to read the Old Testament as well as the New....

HEAVEN'S POINT OF VIEW...God is not limited to time... He looks ahead and sees ahead...

The people in the bible and we also... experience life from **EARTH'S POINT OF VIEW**...We are trapped in time and cannot see the future, so we have to:

Trust the God who looks ahead and makes a provision for us (Jehovah Jireh)

walk by faith and not by sight...

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith and not by sight... and

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith!

That's why God preserved the narrative of the Old Testament for us... as an example of those who forgot three things that we also forget:

Who God was... His Person

What God said ...His Promise

What God could do...His Power

How about you? Have you got your focus on **Heaven's Point of View** or are you overcome by **Earth's Point of View**?

Who God was... His Person

What God said ...His Promise

What God could do...His Power

LESSON

The Fire of God

The story of Ahab and Elijah:

1 Kings 16:30-33 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the

sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat (idol worship), that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Idol Worship brought judgment – Three years and six months with no rain.

Elijah brought the message to King Ahab and then went into hiding for those three years.

His word didn't just affect those who were guilty – but him as well.

Let's think about Elijah and the source of his power....

James 5:17 NKJV Elijah was a man with a nature like ours and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

Don't say you could never be as strong spiritually as Elijah....His power came from communion with God and was strengthened by prayer!

He found God's plan

He prayed that plan back to God

God led him and helped him fulfill God's plan

Finally God sent Elijah back to Ahab and Mt. Carmel to manifest His glory...1 Kings 18:

First he challenged the prophets of Baal..to

Prepare their sacrifice on the altar

But they could not light the fire the sacrifice..their God had to send fire...

The Challenge: THE GOD WHO ANSWERS BY FIRE....HE IS GOD!!!

The Holy Sacred element that separates the one true God from all other gods is FIRE...the fire that falls from heaven!

At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah:

repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down

He used twelve stones for the twelve tribes to rebuilt the altar

He dug a trench around the altar

He put the wood in order,

He cut the sacrifice in pieces and laid it on the wood

He called for four water pots of water and poured it on the sacrifice and wood

He did it three times....12 pots of water... THEN HE PRAYED!!!

AND GOD ANSWERED BY FIRE!!!!

1 Kings 18:38 NKJV Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Major Distinction separating manmade earthly fire from God's Fire:

One rises up

The other rains down

One manufactured (initiated by man)

The Other by GOD

One has no supernatural power

The other is supernatural and

makes our offering

acceptable and holy.

GOD'S fire brought repentance....but ELIJAH had to return to prayer for the rain of restoration and revival of the land to come!

CAN WE SEE GOD'S FIRE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Acts 2:2-4 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues AS OF FIRE and sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance.

The fire is now inside us and the first evidence was the sermon Peter preached on that day which caused 3,000 people to be born again!!!!

Fire is contagious!!!! ... God's fire always brings repentance and revival!

COMPARE TO VIRUS...

Today God is asking us to be the sacrifice....

Romans 12:1 English Standard Version **12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

Exodus 29:42 "For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the Lord. There I will meet you and speak to you;

If we will present our bodies before the Lord as a sacrifice...learn the secret of prayer and faithfulness.... We will see repentance and the rain of the Spirit of the Lord in our lives and in our world:

Joel 2:23-25
King James Version

²³ Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

²⁴ And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.