

GOD'S PROVIDED WAY: THE PLACE CALLED THERE

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“But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering’... And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this Day, ‘In the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.’”

Ω Genesis 22:7,14

“Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

Ω I Kings 17:2-4

The life of Elijah is a very interesting study and it's always important to recognize that when the Bible devotes a lot of history to any one individual, like in the case of this teaching to both Abraham and Elijah, then it's God's

way of saying—“Study and meditate on what I am giving you and you will learn some things about Me—some of the principles by which I operate my kingdom and then you will find it much easier to get your prayers answered and your needs met. I already know your needs before you even think them. In fact, I know your needs much better than you do because I don’t just possess ultimate Wisdom and I am Wisdom. But my Spirit is training you in obedience, sacrifice, humility, patience, love, grace, truth, etc., so that you can be conformed to the exact image of my dear Son. So you must work with the Spirit and the Word to grow up into the fullness of Christ Jesus and so let it be said of you this day, ‘I am about my Father’s business’ and so you shall be blessed and so shall you be a blessing to many.”

I learned many things about Elijah from the Holy Spirit through the Word when He gave me a message I ministered at our church in Libby during the Easter season of 2005. For example, it’s recorded in the Scriptures that the spirit of Elijah must return to forerun the Second Coming of Jesus just as John the Baptist—in the spirit of Elijah that Jesus spoke about—was the forerunner to the first coming of Jesus Christ’s ministry. So what is the spirit of Elijah? What does it mean?

Well, if you want to know then you should study the life and ministry of Elijah. But in this teaching I want to focus on a different subject matter that the Spirit teaches us from the life of both Elijah and Abraham—both are called prophets in the Scriptures although Elijah functioned more fully in the office of prophet.

And this teaches us a principle of God and covenant. If we are in covenant with God then He is obligated to provide for us. There really should not need to be a discussion of this because it should actually be common sense to us that the Heavenly Father is certainly no different than a normal earthly father—both want to provide for their children.

Now notice concerning Abraham’s life that he was “tested”; first his patience and faith were tested with the promise of Isaac while he and Sarah continued to grow old until she had passed through menopause and

what would the world say, “It’s impossible to have children now, Sarah. I know you believed God was going to give you a bouncing baby boy but it’s too late now.” But God don’t go by what the world thinks and if you’re His child then you shouldn’t either. Jesus Himself said on many occasions: “With God, nothing is impossible.”

So Abraham and Sarah saw the covenant promise of God fulfilled and Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old. They enjoyed many wonderful years with this covenant child until he was “a lad” which probably means he was about 15-16 years old. Then out of the blue, God speaks to Abraham and doesn’t give him a hint or a reason but just bluntly says, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” Now why didn’t God tell him then which mountain? He told Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith before he went why didn’t God tell Abraham?

Now notice Abraham didn’t tell Sarah about this. Probably because he thought she would call the men in the white jackets to come and get him to take him to the asylum. And although the Bible tells us it’s a test Abraham was not told this was he? But the Bible records that this event took place “on the third day” and perhaps sets a pattern for so many spiritual “third day” events in the future of prophecy. Abraham does not waver in his faith and he even speaks words of faith, e.g., when he leaves to sacrifice Isaac he speaks to the two young men with them, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.” Praise God! That’s why he is called the Father of Faith! What an awesome testimony this is and one we should learn from whenever we feel prone to doubt God.

Then after Abraham passes God’s test—right up until the time that he drew the knife back to slay Isaac—God “provides” His own sacrifice in the form of ram—a male sheep. And of course everybody knows that this is a type of Christ Jesus and his sacrifice on the altar as sin for the whole world. But notice that Abraham names the mountain where this occurred: “The LORD

will provide” and the Word says that Solomon built the Temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 3:1).

We sing the worship song today, at least they used to in churches, from this testimony titled “Jehovah Jireh”; the LORD, my Provider! And Jesus demonstrated that fact when He walked the earth to “show us the Father”—He was and will always be “our Provider.” He demonstrated in feeding the 5,000 and the 4,000 not only that He is the Bread of Life but also that He is always “more than enough.” If there had been 1,000,000,000 people there that day I guarantee you that they would have worn themselves out passing out bread because Jesus is always “more than enough” to meet any need you will ever have! So learn this principle today and apply it to your life—when you are in covenant with God, then He is obligated to provide for you—food, clothing, shelter, finances, healing, etc.—all the promises of the Word because that is His *b’rth ad olam* (Hebrew, meaning “my eternal covenant with you”). Was Abraham in covenant with God? Of course! Then God was obligated “to provide” a sacrifice which He did here and also several thousand years later in the Person of Jesus Christ.

But I want to also mention another covenant term here that applies and one you should understand. I devote an entire chapter on covenant in *The High Calling of God* because I’ve found that churches don’t teach Christians about covenant and it’s important to understand the facts about covenant because once you do, then your faith will be strengthened and you will be able to comprehend *why* I say, for example, that God is obligated by covenant to heal you. We have 2 testimonies of women healed of terminal cancer who were both in hospitals—one in Cape Town, the other in Anchorage—and were only given a few days to live. The woman in Anchorage had in fact just returned home from M.D. Anderson in Houston which is considered the best cancer hospital in the world.

Both these ladies were instantly healed the same way—by understanding and *believing* that God is obligated by covenant to heal them. They both got up, ran around the room, packed their bags and then went home. Praise God! And you talk about a commotion that this caused with all the

nurses and doctors on that floor! So funny to see their disbelieving faces that something scientifically impossible had just happened.

The other covenant term in Hebrew you need to understand is the word, *hesed*, and it's pronounced with a hard c as in "chesed." It's translated *mercy* in the King James Bible and *loving kindness* or *steadfast love* in other translations. That's because you really cannot translate it with one or two words in the English language. Literally, it means that if I am in covenant with you—for example, after the death of Jonathan, David's close friend and son of King Saul, because David and Jonathan loved each other and had made a covenant with one another (cf. 1 Sam. 23:18), the Bible says that David asked: "Is there not anyone left of the House of Saul that I might extend *hesed*"—then I am obligated by that covenant to give you the very best that I can. So Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son who was only 5 when his father was killed and became lame in both feet as a result of this time, woke up one day to find that he would spend the rest of his life eating at the king's table every single day because David extended *hesed* to him as a result of his father, Jonathan! And we see God do this with the House of David even after David is dead. Covenant is powerful and if you're born again into the family of God through the Blood of Jesus then it applies to you! God is obligated to "provide for you" just like He did for Abraham.

But now there's something else you need to put with this wonderful fact and it has to do with something we at CCI say all the time and you probably know but must practice—remember the pattern of the Tabernacle of Moses and later the Tabernacle of David and the Temple. The Holy Place has both the Bread and the Oil which is the fuel that brings light through the candlestick or lamp. And what was it casting light upon? The Bread! So this types the Spirit giving "light" and understanding to the Bread—the Word of God. If you want to be in the Second Will of God—typed by the Holy Place—then you've moved past the "Good" will of God having passed the Brazen Altar signifying the sacrifice for sin. Only priests were allowed into the Holy Place and we are become priests unto God through the Blood of Jesus.

But if you do not heed the Spirit, then like many in the world today you will become a *legalist* and, unfortunately I hate to be the first one to tell you this but I know from experience, then you are open to being possessed by a religious spirit—the Christian kind! Now the Spirit and the Word agree but we must again look at types and realize that the Cloud and Pillar of Fire that Israel followed typed the Spirit of God. Paul wrote in the *crème d' la crème* of all chapters, Romans 8, that those who “are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.” Remember, for example, in your own personal prophecies and we see this with Abraham when we study his life and his own personal prophecies—the three *W's*—the Word, the Will and the Way. It always takes *both* the Spirit and the Word to fulfill all three *W's*.

The Apostle Paul came to understand this and we see this portrayed in Acts—Jesus had given the Great Commission and then He was taken up into Heaven. Paul was seeking to fulfill this Great Commission—“to go into all the world and preach the gospel”—but he learned from the Spirit that they “were forbidden to preach in Asia” so where he was seeking to go was not the “will” of God. Like many today who are killed on the mission field, had Paul gone against the leading of the Spirit he might have been killed or severely injured. But he sought the Lord and the Spirit gave him a night vision for his experience we call “the Macedonian call.” So, yes, although it is the will of God for the gospel to be preached throughout the world, it might not be His will for you to preach it, for example, in Israel today. I can tell you for a fact that most of the Christian ministries in Israel today are not there by direction of the Spirit of God and that can be highly dangerous.

So we need both the Word and the Spirit to be in the “acceptable” and “perfect” wills of God. Now, if you want to be in the “perfect” will of God then you must move “past the Holy Place” and into the Holy of Holies or “Most Holy Place”; and how do you do that? But if you never learn to follow the Spirit in the first place you will not make it into the Holy Place.

Now Elijah is such a powerful image of the *true* prophet and not all the phonies that we see today in churches with their, “There’s a woman over here with female problems” and “There’s a man over in that section with back pain.” The *true* prophets of God are easy to discern but most

Christians, because they are still in the “outer court,” can’t discern them because they cannot discern the anointing. We see this with Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah, etc.—they stand in the Presence of God in the throne room in Heaven and watch and listen for His counsel.

Notice what Elijah says to King Ahab when he comes out of nowhere—complete obscurity because Ahab didn’t know who this guy was and, no doubt thought he was crazy as a loon:

“As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand ...” (1 Kings 17:1)

Now it’s interesting to note—and if you’ve read MSDK then you will know that there actually is a demon named Baal in the Dark Kingdom who is one of the 8 Powers who report to the 4 Principalities directly under Satan—that the god Baal that Ahab had allowed his wife Jezebel to introduce to Israel and lead most of the nation away from Jehovah through, guess what? Prosperity!!! They preached the prosperity message and they were all prospering under Baal—at least materially. But they were dying spiritually! Listen! God’s not the only one who can grant riches, fame, prosperity, healing and even raising the dead. The devil can do this as well! Don’t be deceived! God does want His Body, the Church, to prosper but you’re not going to prosper if you continue to listen to all those Balaam boys on the Inspiration Network and all the other TBNs—“the Balaam Networks.”

No, like Israel in the time of Elijah—because he was born for this purpose like all true prophets of God as God told Jeremiah later—the people did prosper materially when they followed Baal. But guess what! They were out of the will of God, weren’t they? And one of the things you always see in African nations or Asian where they worship Baal and Ashtaroth is that “the harvests are always plentiful” because there is plenty of rain. But Elijah comes forth to speak for Jehovah and says, “I represent the true God of Israel and you may think Baal is giving you prosperity and bountiful crops with rain but there is not going to be any more rain—or even dew—unless I say so!”

So if there is no rain, then that means that Baal has gone, right? Or that there is a real God who is more powerful than Baal. But as Eve and I say a lot because it's true and Elijah is an example of this—"What you prophesy often affects you." I mean, we've been criticized as being unpatriotic because we have spoken the truth about visions, dreams and revelations we've received from the Lord about the destruction of America. Like Jeremiah, who was accused of actually aiding the enemy by counseling the real word of the Lord to the elders that they were to surrender the city of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon. That can't be God, right? After all, we are in covenant with God and that king is a gentile who is not in covenant with God. No way we're going to surrender the city to him. Jeremiah is one of the clearest example in all of the Scriptures that demonstrates something we say all the time and contradicts one of the two greatest misconceptions that Christians have about God—that because He is Omnipotent and Omniscient His will is always done. No, in fact as Jeremiah demonstrates and other prophets as well, the will of God is normally *not* done!

So Elijah delivers his message as a *Nabi* prophet and of course he was not dressed in a Nieman Marcus suit so the king basically blew him off as being an escapee from the asylum. But Elijah leaves and the Spirit gives him direction because it's going to be 3 ½ years before there is any rain again and before that time King Ahab is going to know that a true prophet spoke to him and he's going to be looking for Elijah, not to find God, but to end the drought.

But notice the words of the Lord to Elijah: "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." Now there is much, much more we could say about this that I cover in the 2 CD message set on *The Spirit of Elijah* but it's not the subject of this teaching so I'm going to stop here at this junction of Elijah's life to share the other principle of God that the Lord wants you to follow that is very important for you to understand, ask Him about if you don't have clear direction, and be obedient.

The Lord Jesus is our Savior and He wants to be our Master but, unfortunately, He's not the Master of everybody who is saved by the Blood. The Bible says that when we become Christians that we "are bought with a price—our lives are not our own." In other words, our lives belong to Jesus because He is the owner of the sheep because as the Spirit told me back in 1991 in Kingman, Arizona, He owns the sheep because "He paid the price for the sheep." And if you're smart you will allow Him to be the Lord and Master of your life because He has your best interests at heart. But most Christians have a problem with Jesus being Lord and Master of their life and nowhere is this evidenced more today than in the fact that, according to the Gallup Poll, only 3% of Christians tithe which is a clear command of the Lord.

But even though the Spirit convicts us of sin, God often has trouble getting us to give up sins in our lives and allow Him to have complete control—it might be sexual sin, unforgiveness, or other sins of the soul. This will keep you in the outer court and not allow you to move into the Holy Place because although the Holy Spirit is very gentle and His Presence is so sweet, you can grieve Him and even make Him mad and He will leave. And if you continue on in sin then your heart will gradually become hardened through a process He showed me in 1999 known as "The Hardening of the Heart Principle" where the continued sin continues to harden your heart to the point that you can no longer hear the Spirit and then you are in real danger.

But if you will follow the Spirit, be quick to repent when He convicts you of sin, then He will always direct you to "the place called there."

Now for Elijah, the place called "there" was the Brook Cherith. Why? Because God said, 'I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there.' But for Naaman the Syrian general with leprosy many years later the place called "there" was the River Jordan, wasn't it? Elisha sent a messenger—one of the Sons of the Prophets—to him with the Word of the Lord to "go and dip in the River Jordan seven times (the number of completion, signifying complete healing and restoration) and your flesh shall be restored." And Naaman almost missed God, didn't he? In fact, if it

weren't for the wise counsel of some of his men he would have remained a leper 'til the day of his death, wouldn't he?

And why is that true? Because although God is obligated to provide for us and God always has a provided way for you, it is rarely the same way each and every time and you must listen to the Spirit for the place called "there" to receive the promise. Would Namaan have been healed had he followed his own counsel and gone back to Aram and dipped in the river up there? Most emphatically not!

And would Elijah have had his "room service" meals—the only man in the history of the world as far as I know to have room service flown in right to his side—provided if he had decided to go to the Sea of Galilee instead of the Brook Cherith? Of course not! God had only commanded the ravens that lived around the Brook Cherith to provide for him, not all the ravens in the world. And remember as we always say, "What does the Word say?" Well, in this case the Word says, "If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land." And if you make a choice not to go to the place called "there" then God is not obligated to provide for you. You must learn to be obedient like those ravens. Do you think those ravens were hard of hearing? Or do you think those ravens would all get together and say, "No, I've seen the way that Elijah guy looks—like some kind of hippy—and he smells real bad too, kinda like the carrion we like to feed on (hum! Did you ever wonder what kind of meat they provided? Remember, to always be grateful to God and He will increase your prosperity). I don't think we should provide for him so, God, we're not going to do it."

I certainly believe most people are smarter than a raven so recognize that the Word of God is true, that the Spirit and the Word agree—the Holy Spirit will not tell you to do something contrary to the Word (just to be clear, there are a very few exceptions to this in the Scriptures but they were words of the Lord to prophets like Hosea who could clearly hear the voice of the Lord and God called him to a ministry but told him to marry a prostitute as a "type" of the nation of Israel but almost always the Spirit will not ask you to do something contrary to the Word.

Also, remember from this teaching that God is obligated by covenant to provide for you and He has a provided way but it's your responsibility to not tell God *how* to do it—notice Elijah didn't tell God to send him either to the Brook Cherith or after that brook dried up he didn't ask God to send him to Zarephath, did he? And you do not tell God *when* to do it! Elijah was obedient and just followed the Spirit where God told him to go. And he stayed there *until* God told him to leave resting securely knowing that this was God's Provided Way at that time to meet that need in his life—the place called “there.”