Faith, Hope & Love_Part11

Jehovah Qanna—the Lord whose name is Jealous. Our study of this name was very intense as the implications for how we live are mind-blowing. Most of us had no clue that we have lived as spiritual adulterers and have spent so much time vacillating between the worship of God and the worship of the demons. It is beyond shocking; it is horrifying to think of it. But each and every time that we hold to our coping mechanisms as a way to defend the enemies in our land, we worship the gods behind those enemies, which as we learned are demons. And for many of us, the demons have had their way with us for far too long.

Tragically, in loving our adulterous lifestyle, we have made ourselves an enemy of God and have been fixed, or conformed, by those demons into an enemy (*James 4:1-10*). But our God who is jealous is envious of all you have given over to these demons and He wants what rightfully belongs to Him. He wants you! Therefore, He will give you a greater grace to be able to fight and conquer the enemies within your soul if that is what you want; but He will absolutely oppose you if you choose to stand in your pride thinking that you are "good" and got things under control. And since He is a consuming fire, which is an apt description of one who is jealous, I don't think you want God opposing you. He wants you to let the Spirit of God humble you before Him so you will realize that 1) that the enemies that you love and protect do nothing but rob you of all the promises of God that should be yours in Christ Jesus; and 2) that life without Jesus is not worth living.

Let Him humble you; choose to draw near to Him confident He will draw near to you; choose to actively resist the devil all the time—it must be your way of life; and cleanse your hands and purify your hearts. In other words, by faith, be willing to cut down, break, smash, and destroy your pagan altars, your sacred pillars, and your Asherah poles and refuse to indulge your coping mechanisms. If you do, God will drive out the enemies before you and give you the strength to evict them from your land and totally annihilate them; He guarantees that result by His name Jehovah Nissi (our banner and our victory) and His name El Shaddai (the Lord God Almighty); and He is always true to His name.

But you must do your part and refuse to indulge in your particular means of demonic worship and replace it with the worship of God and God alone, which requires true Biblical faith—the willingness to bet your life on His name. You would think that would be easy: demons or God, God or demons. It should be a no brainer of a decision, especially with all our first-hand experience with demons. They are appalling, the worse kind of creatures. But then why have we continued to worship these demons and hold on to our adulterous lifestyle? Even this past week, after learning all of this truth, some of us have affirmed instead of repudiated the treaties made with those enemies? Some of us have even dived deeper into our coping mechanisms afraid they will be taken from us. Why has this happened? Why are you letting them conform you into an enemy of God?

In addressing these questions, I want to talk about the enemies in your soul and your coping mechanisms. As we discussed last week, the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites in our land represent such things as your fear, pride, goodness, failure, insecurity, selfishness, envy, the victim mentality, and even our hatred. These are the enemies which God wants to dispossess. Your pagan altars, sacred pillars, and Asherah poles associated with the gods of your enemies are your coping mechanisms. For example, self-protection, eating disorders

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(including emotional eating), unauthorized sexual activity, isolation (physical and emotional), any form of substance abuse, obsession with work and performance, relational neediness, emotional indulgence, shame, and so on; you know what they are for you. These coping mechanisms keep you so consumed with yourself that you never give much attention to the enemies with whom you have made treaties. The whole point about breaking, smashing, and destroying your pagan altars, your sacred pillars, and Asherah poles is to give your mind and emotions time away from self-obsession in order that you might truly deal with these enemies of God. Trying to go after the enemies without eliminating the attachment to the demons simply does not work; many of you have tried and the result is always the same—failure.

So let's assume you do your part and choose, by faith, to forego these selfish indulgences. I believe God will quickly start to drive out the enemies before you giving you an opportunity to understand them and to kill them. And here is the thing you will find, each and every enemy in your land is not just an enemy of God, but is a poser of God—a cheap substitute who stands in opposition to the name of God. They give you something that you should be receiving from God and God alone. We have been diligently studying the names of God in order that we might understand how truly different He is from His enemies. They cannot give you what He can give and they cannot be to you who He is. It is a total deception. You have been lied to; and, sadly, you have believed the lie.

For instance, one of the deep rooted enemies in the Christian community in Boulder, as it is in our own church, is the lie of personal goodness: the belief that when it is all said and done, we are basically good and if we find that we do something uncharacteristically "bad," we should have or could have been good. As we know this good child/bad child dichotomy is the root of the shame with which many of us have been drenched. This fundamental belief however stands in 100% opposition to the name Jehovah Tisdkenu—the Lord who is our righteousness. The only way to overcome and conquer this enemy is to accept the truth that not only are you not good, you are nowhere close to good. Your heart is deceitful, wicked, and filled with deception. In fact, God makes it clear in Jeremiah 17:9 that no one knows the extent of evil to which their own heart is bent; still everyone believes they have light. But if the light that you have is really darkness, imagine how deep that darkness goes (*Matthew 6:23*). So there must be an exchange, a fundamental shift in your belief paradigm about who you are. The lie of personal goodness must be exchanged for the truth that only God is good and you need His goodness for every little area of your life, not just a part. The truth is that you are 100% needy for Jesus' righteousness and not one-percent less-100%! And if this becomes your truth, then you have to look only to Him to be your provision for personal goodness. This is just one example, but for every single enemy, God has made provision in Himself for everything you need. And this brings us to the thirteenth name of God.

13. Jehovah Jireh – the Lord will Provide. This name covers every aspect of our spiritual existence on this earth and every need that we have with regard to fulfilling the work which the Father has assigned to us during our time on the earth. I want to make sure that is clear. Whatever you need to fulfill your assignments will be provided to you—both physically and spiritually. This name does not mean that every "need" you think you have in your human existence will be provided for; no, that is a misnomer and a lie of the enemy. The chosen of God do get sick, they die, and in some countries they starve, are imprisoned, and go without. But God is still

their Provider; and the chosen always have everything they need, again both physically and spiritually, to fulfill their specific assignments on this earth. We see this even in the life of Paul. He went through many situations where it would seem that He was not "Provided" for by God as some would describe "provision."

2 Corinthians 11:23-33

Are they servants of Christ? — I speak as if insane — I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern? If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

Paul did not experience these troubles because God failed to provide; rather, each trouble was appointed by God and was a part of God teaching Paul how to trust in Him regardless of what Paul might otherwise think or feel. It was all about Paul fulfilling the "*design point*" and proving that Christ is the one who lives in and through Paul, which is why Paul could say that the life he lived in the flesh he lived <u>by faith</u> in the Son of God who loved him and gave Himself up for him (*Galatians 2:20*). I want you to consider Paul's experience with physical suffering and God's perfect provision. On three different occasions Paul had pleaded with God to heal him of an affliction, and God answered: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." And when Paul was able to internalize this truth and realize that Jesus was His complete Provider, even in weakness, He declared:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Remember, we are studying the Kingdom of God, not the kingdom of man. We are not learning how to manipulate God to work for us in the kingdom of man so we can all be healthy, wealthy, and wise. Rather, we are learning all that we can about the Kingdom of God in order that we might see the kingdom of man through the lens of the spiritual and not the physical. I want you to understand that this is our aim. Unless you learn to see the physical through the lens of the spiritual, you will not be able to understand much less live the "*design point*," for you will be too focused on what you think God should be doing for you versus appropriating all that He has—in His wisdom—given you for this life.

The name Jehovah Jireh comes from *Genesis 22* in the story of Abraham and Isaac. As we know, for most his life Abraham and his wife Sarah were childless. Yet, in *Genesis 15:4-6*, God promised Abraham that from his seed would come a people so numerous that they would outnumber the stars in the heavens. We are told that Abraham believed this promise of God; and it was this decision of faith that prompted Jehovah Tsidkenu to declare Abraham righteous. But time passed and kept passing and Abraham and Sarah kept waiting; the ridiculous soon turned into the impossible. Abraham was 99 years old when the Lord finally appeared to him and Sarah (who was 90) and told them that within the year they would have a child. Given their age, they could not believe it to be true; but lo and behold the Lord did exactly as he said. Before the year was out Sarah gave birth to Isaac who is Biblically known as the child of faith. You can read about this in *Genesis 15-22*.

When this faith child was just a boy, the Lord spoke to Abraham and said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you" (*Genesis 22:2-3*). Can you imagine receiving such a request from God? According to *Genesis 22:1*, this was all a set up to test or to prove out Abraham's faith as well as God's faithfulness. Clearly **Elohim**, the God who sits outside of time, knew the choice Abraham would make before He ever asked Him to sacrifice his own son; but God wanted you and me to know that such decisions are possible and He used Abraham to prove His point. It is possible to believe God and bet your life on the name of God and the promises of God regardless of your circumstances.

Abraham saddled up his donkey, took the boy, some firewood, a knife, two servants (who would serve as witnesses, as two is the number of witness), and headed to the mountains. When he arrived in the vicinity, he saw the hill upon which the Lord wanted him to make his offering. Abraham told the servants to wait and he and the boy would go and worship God and would soon return. It's as if Abraham fully believed Isaac would return. Abraham knew that for God to be true to the promise (in *Genesis 21:12*) to make a great nation out of this child of faith, God would have to provide a solution—even if it was raising Isaac from the dead (*Hebrews 11:19*). So up the mountain they went.

Genesis 22:7-8 describes a fascinating conversation between Isaac and Abraham while they hiked. "Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' And he said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together." The Lord will provide—Jehovah Jireh. When they reached the top, Abraham built an altar, laid down the fire wood, bound Isaac with ropes, and laid him on top of the wood. He took the knife and stretched out his hand to slay the boy when Jesus—who is called the "Angel of the Lord"—spoke to Abraham and told him not to harm the boy. Jesus then affirmed that Abraham was truly a man who feared the Lord. Then Abraham saw behind him a ram caught in the bushes and he went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham

The Kingdom

called the name of that place **Jehovah Jireh**—The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the Lord it will be provided" (*Genesis 22:13-14*). On a side note, Mount Moriah is the very mountain where Jesus would be crucified as our substitute as God provided Himself, the Lamb, as the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

In this story, God made provision for Abraham and Isaac just as He would make provision for all mankind in regard to the issue of sin. **Jehovah Jireh** met the real time practical needs of Isaac and saved his life (because the Father still had work for Isaac to fulfill), but in so doing the Lord also foreshadowed the way He would deal with the true spiritual needs of all mankind. **Jehovah Jireh** made Himself the provision for the problem of sin which separated God and man; and on that very mountain it was provided. And now that sin has been dealt with, we are free in Jesus and can live with no condemnation for our transgressions (which also means we have no reason to live in shame), for He is our provision for everything.

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

And because those who are in Christ—the chosen—have been set free from the

bondage of sin, and have been declared perfect (which is the requirement of the law that has been fulfilled in us by Jesus), we are now free to not just break, smash, and destroy our pagan altars, sacred pillars, and Asherah poles, we can also destroy the enemies in our soul which stand in opposition to God.

Romans 8:12-14

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We are under no obligation to the enemies in the land or to the demon gods of the land, regardless of the treaties we have made with them. We have been set free. This is Jesus' provision for our lives. We can revoke those treaties and choose to live not from our flesh but from the Spirit (who is also a provision from Jesus); and, if we do, war will breakout. Jesus, **Jehovah Jireh**, will be our provision for this war as He was our provision when He set us free from sin, fulfilled the requirement of the law for us and in us, and gave us His Spirit to lead us and live through us.

2 Peter 1:2-3

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us *everything* pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Is there anything you need to win this war that you have not already been given? No! Everything has been provided for by **Jehovah Jireh**—everything! It is all found, however, through the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. That is why we are studying His name. You must know His name, you must meditate on His name, you must know how His name differs from your enemies, you must believe in His name, and choose to bet your life on it. He is your provision for everything you need for life and godliness. With that said, I want you to know that right now you can make the choice to go to war, but understand this war will not be won overnight. Some of these enemies are in so deep that it takes time to root them out. Besides, if God removes all the enemies in one fell swoop, the wild animals would be too much for any of us to handle.

Deuteronomy 7:22-26

The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, for the wild beasts would grow too numerous for you. But the Lord your God will deliver them before you, and will throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed. He will deliver their kings into your hand so that you will make their name perish from under heaven; no man will be able to stand before you until you have destroyed them. The graven images of their gods you are to burn with fire; you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, or you will be snared

by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. You shall not bring an abomination into your house, and like it come under the ban; you shall utterly detest it and you shall utterly abhor it, for it is something banned.

Using the analogy of the Promised Land, the wild animals are akin to our emotions. Although we need to destroy the enemies in our soul, truth be told they have played a very significant role in stabilizing our lives, as have been our idolatrous coping mechanisms. They have been a necessary part of our survival in a broken and sinful world that has traumatized us. Without them many of us would be dead or far worse off than we are now. But they still need to go; they have no place in the life of the chosen. Now that we have come to know God, we have no need for them; none at all. They are worthless and must be destroyed. They come from our flesh and no flesh will glory or be justified before God (*Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16*). They have outlived their purpose therefore you are to make their names perish from under heaven. And with regard to the idolatrous worship via our coping mechanisms, we are to utterly detest and utterly abhor them.

If our enemies however were to be suddenly plucked out, like wild animals, our emotions would go crazy and there would be nothing to stabilize them. For those of you who live by your emotions and crave emotional satisfaction, take note; they cannot be trusted—they are wild animals, beasts. This is why war is necessary. God takes us by the hand and leads us to war enemy by enemy throughout the territory of our soul. This is nothing to fear, war is necessary if we are ever going to come to believe in the name and be saved from our enemies. With each and every battle, He teaches us to rely on another aspect of His name; and when we learn that lesson, we get total victory over that enemy. And since our victory came <u>by faith</u>, by relying on His name, we now have something extremely tangible to fill the space in our soul that was once occupied by that particular enemy. In fact, Jesus, through His Spirit, practically and tangibly takes up domicile in that part of our soul. And He abides in us as we abide in Him (*John 15:4*). He occupies the territory that once was possessed by the enemies of God and His presence brings such stability to our soul that our emotions do not go wild and destroy us. Again, He is our provision.

Furthermore, with His life in ours, we are able to bear the fruit of His love and not the fruit of our flesh, at least in that conquered area of our soul. We must remember that apart from Him we can literally do nothing (*John 15:5*). This is why we war. Just think about that concept in terms of Jesus being our full provision: apart from Him we CANNOT produce the fruit of righteousness and we CANNOT produce the fruit of righteousness and we CANNOT produce the fruit of His love. In fact, all that we do without Him is considered to be good for nothing but to be gathered like wood, cast into the fire, and burned up (*John 15:6*). Jesus is our complete provision for this spiritual life that is lived in these bodies of flesh. He is our **Jehovah Jireh**.

The thing I want you to take home tonight is the understanding that He is your complete provision for all the enemies in your soul. Let's look at some of these enemies. For instance, many of you are gripped and controlled by fear. Fear dictates how you see each and every situation. Yet, well over 50 times God commands us: **Do Not Fear!** But His instruction is far more than a command, for it is also a promise for provision. He does not just leave us standing there naked, so to speak, He is our very reason we do not have to fear. For example in *Isaiah 41:10-14* He says:

Isaiah 41:10-14

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish. You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them, those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent. For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.' Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you, declares the Lord, and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

Because of who He is and who we are to Him, we do not have to fear; in fact, we must not fear. He is with you, He is your God, and He will strengthen you, help you, uphold you, and destroy your enemies. He is the Lord **your** God and He is your complete provision for fear. Besides, whom do we have to fear; He is **El Hannora**, the great, mighty, and awesome God (*Nehemiah 9:32*); and He is **El Elyon**, the Most High God who is supreme over all (*Genesis 14:20; Psalm 9:2*). He is the one who can handle any problem, any issue, any concern, and any cause for anxiety. He is with us and He will redeem us and free us from each and every enemy—even fear. But we must be willing to exchange our affinity for living with fear, it is almost an addiction, with a confident trust in the name of God and the promises of God. Can you imagine? What a powerful way to live life—without fear. We don't need to fear man nor do we need to fear the enemy for the living God is our very provision and

replacement for fear. Oddly enough, fear gives us this sense that we need to control, but our God is the Lord, the one who is in control of every detail. Our control is an illusion and our attempts at control are just delusional. We must look to Jesus.

Isaiah 51:12-16

I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies and of the son of man who is made like grass, that you have forgotten the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, as he makes ready to destroy? But where is the fury of the oppressor? The exile will soon be set free, and will not die in the dungeon, nor will his bread be lacking. For I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea and its waves roar (the Lord of hosts is His name).

Think about it logically. If He is who He says He is and you are who He says you are, then you can let go of the fear for you have no reason to fear neither man nor demon. The Lord has you covered; and, since He is the Lord, all things all the time are always in control regardless of what you might otherwise think or feel. All you need to do is toss away you're anxiety; yes, break that sacred pillar. Refuse to indulge in worry—smash that Asherah pole. Do not drink from the fountain of compulsion which drives your frenzy, paranoia, and OCD—destroy that pagan altar. And compare your fears to the promises of the one who is the Maker of the

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universe, the Lord <u>vour</u> God, and the Lord of hosts whose commands are obeyed by Satan and his demonic minions. Drive them all out of your land. They do not belong. Set aside your adulterous ways and rest in the truth regarding the name.

All the Lord asks you to do is not react to their lies. Remember, it is the lie that is at the seat of your fear. If the truth about God and His name and the truth about you was always in front of your face, I honestly believe that fear would have no place to root. Fear pales in comparison to the name of God; it is a cheap substitute. But still the enemy lies to you about God and lies to you about you, and he keeps lying until you react out of, and are overcome by, fear. You must reject this enemy and destroy him; and you do that with the truth, fully confident that Jesus is your provision for fear. Do not forget your true reality: as a chosen one—you have NOTHING to FEAR!

Tonight we have addressed the enemies of goodness and failure and now in closing, fear. Next week I hope to spend some time talking about the way in which Jesus is our complete provision—our **Jehovah Jireh**—for the rest of our enemies: pride, insecurity, selfishness, envy and the victim mentality.

Let's Pray