



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.”
(Gen. 22:14, NIV)

Daily Devotional:

ARISING TO A NEW DAY

(This is the third of a six-part series)

Coming into the “third day” -- our new day in a new season -- is not always easy. It can seem that when we are closest to our breakthrough we go through a difficult season or a time of testing that challenges everything within us. It may be tough to stay the course.

In Genesis 22 we see Abraham going through just such a test. “God tested Abraham ... and said, ‘Take now your only son Isaac ... and offer him as a sacrifice.’ So Abraham arose early and went to the place which God told him” (vv. 2,4) I can only imagine what a deep struggle Abraham must have been going through as the Lord asked him to kill his beloved son as a sacrifice. Sometimes the Lord may require something of us that makes no sense or may be intensely painful. In times like these it’s easy to get discouraged and maybe even a little bitter at a God who would require so much of us. But only God can see the end from the beginning. Only God can see how our times of testing and anguish are the fuel that propels us into the new day He has in store.

“Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw a place far off ... and the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham ... and God provided a ram. And Abraham called the place Jireh, for ‘The Lord will provide!’” (v.14). Ultimately Abraham was not required to sacrifice his son, and in the midst of his obedience was provided with a ram that could be sacrificed instead.

But Abraham did not only receive provision for the moment. God propelled him into a new day. Through the son he was willing to sacrifice, God brought tremendous promises and blessing. “I will surely bless you ... and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” (vv. 17-18).

If we are willing to lay our lives on God’s altar, not only will we pass the test, we will receive new provision for the days ahead, just as God provided the ram for Abraham’s sacrifice. And in the process, God will propel us into a new day of blessing and purpose that will also bless those around us.