

John 5:17, 19-20 NKJV
 Luke 11:13 NKJV
 2 Kings 6:14-17

QUESTION:

"What would you see if God "pulled back the curtain" and let you know what He is doing?

Ephesians 6:12 NLT

Psalm 23:1-6 NKJV	
<i>The Lord is My Shepherd...</i>	Jehovah Rohi "The Lord our Shepherd"
<i>I shall not want...</i>	Jehovah Jireh "The Lord who Provides"
<i>He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters...</i>	Jehovah Shalom "The Lord our Peace"
<i>He restores my soul...</i>	Jehovah Rophi "The Lord who heals"
<i>He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake...</i>	Jehovah Tsidkenu "The Lord our Righteousness"
<i>Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me...</i>	Jehovah Shammah "The Lord is there"
<i>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...</i>	Jehovah Nissi "The Lord our Banner of Victory"
<i>You anoint my head with oil, my cup runs over...</i>	Jehovah Mckeddish "The Lord who Sanctifies"
<i>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.</i>	

Jehovah Rohi
The Lord is my Shepherd
(Psalms 23:1)

1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need" - (Psalms 23:1).

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:14-15)

The name "Jehovah-Rohi" means "Jehovah my Shepherd". It begins in Psalm 23, where it is translated, "The Lord is my shepherd." The primary meaning of the word "Ro'eh" is "to feed" or "lead to pasture," as a shepherd does his flock. The story of Joseph in Egypt opens with Joseph "feeding the flock with his brethren" (Genesis 37:2). We read in Psalms 80:1, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, the one who leads Joseph like a flock."

Isaiah says, "Behold Jehovah Elohim will come with a strong hand... He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young" (Isaiah 40:10-11). Ezekiel also gives us a beautiful picture of this relationship in Ezekiel 34:11-16, where after the indignation at the false shepherds (Ezekiel 34:1-10), Jehovah is presented as the Shepherd who will search his sheep and seek them out. He will feed them in a good pasture and make them to lie in a good fold. He "will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick" (Ezekiel 34:16).

In the New Testament, Christ is presented as "that great Shepherd of the sheep" (Hebrews 13:20). Some of the most beautiful and appealing of His parables and sayings have to do with this relationship to His redeemed. In Christ was fulfilled the word of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 34:11-16). Peter reminds us that we were going astray like sheep "but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25).

Jehovah Jireh
The Lord will Provide
(Genesis 22:14)

"Abraham named the place "The LORD Will Provide." This name has now become a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." - (Genesis 22:14)

Jehovah-Jireh means "The Lord will provide". God revealed Himself as the Lord who would provide way back in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Abraham was about ready to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar at the top of a desolate mountain in the land of Moriah. We know it was desolate because when they reached the base of the mountain, Abraham took with him the wood, fire, and knife that would be needed to complete the sacrifice. He must have known none of those things would be found at the top. He also took Isaac who was to BE the sacrifice and left two servants behind.

When they were near the top, Isaac said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering? And Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering my son.'" Just as Abraham was about to kill his son, the Lord stopped him and showed him a ram caught in a thicket and told him to use that instead. God had placed that ram nearby in advance, knowing He was going to need a substitute for Isaac. After the sacrifice was complete, Abraham named the place "The Lord Will Provide" which in Hebrew is YHWH-jireh.

Where does the Lord provide our needs?

In the place of His assignment. Abraham was at the right place, so God could meet his needs. We have no right to expect the provision of God if we are not in the will of God.

When does God meet our needs?

Just when we have the need and not a minute before. When you bring your requests to the throne of grace, God answers with mercy and grace "in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Sometimes it looks like God waits until the last minute to send help, but that is only from our human point of view. God is never late.

How does God provide for us?

In ways that are usually quite natural. God did not send an angel with a sacrifice; He simply allowed a ram to get caught in a bush at a time when Abraham needed it and in a place where Abraham could get his hands on it. All Abraham needed was one animal, so God did not send a whole flock of sheep.

To whom does God give His provision?

To those who trust Him and obey His instructions. When we are doing the will of God, we have the right to expect the provision of God. A deacon in the first church I pastored used to remind us, "When God's work is done in God's way, it will not lack God's support." God is not obligated to bless my ideas or projects, but He is obligated to support His work if it is done in His way.

Why does God provide our every need?

For the great glory of His name! "Hallowed be Thy name" is the first petition in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), and it governs all the other requests. God was glorified on Mount Moriah because Abraham and Isaac did the will of the Lord and glorified Jesus Christ. We must pause to consider this important truth."

"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." - (Philippians 4:19)

Jehovah Shalom
The Lord our Peace
(Judges 6:24)

"And Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it "The LORD Is Peace." (Judges 6:24) (NLT)

Israel was being oppressed by the Midianites. The Angel of God, the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, came from Heaven to Gideon to call him to service doing His work. He planned to use Gideon to deliver Israel. At first, Gideon did not recognize the Angel of the Lord. Gideon was full of anxiety and fear because of the Midianites. The peace of the Israelites was gone. Christ spoke peace to him in verse 23. And in verse 24 Gideon built an altar to the Lord and named it after this name of God, "Jehovah Shalom" meaning "God is Peace!"

Before His birth Zacharias announced Him as the Dayspring ("Sunrise" NASB) from on high who had visited His people "to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78, 79), while at His birth a multitude of the heavenly host sang "peace on earth" (Luke 2:14).

Jesus also preached and promised peace. To a woman He had healed He said "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:50) and to another "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." (Luke 8:48) His first words to His fearful disciples after rising from the dead are, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19, 21). The burden of Peter's first message to the Gentiles was "the preaching of peace through Jesus Christ He is Lord of all" (Acts 10:36).

Paul adds that Jesus "came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh" (Ephesians 2:17). He accomplished that peace for us. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:1).

Jehovah-Rophi
The Lord who heals
Exodus 15:26

The children of Israel had just come through some harrowing and glorious times. After 400 years they were free from the bondage of Egypt. The process had been turbulent. They watched plague after plague hit the Egyptians until the final one killing the firstborn male of every household and even striking the livestock. Then they were finally allowed to go by the Pharaoh.

Even after that Pharaoh changed his mind and followed them out to the Red Sea to try to force them to return. But God instructed Moses to extend his hand over the waters and they parted so that the Israelites crossed over on dry land. From the other side of the sea they saw with their own eyes what happened when the Egyptians tried to cross behind them. When they got to the middle, God had Moses stretch out his hand again and release the waters. The Egyptians drowned and were utterly destroyed. What a party ensued. They sang a great song of joy to the Lord. They danced with timbrels in triumph because they had been saved from their enemies. Now they were ready to move forward free from enslavement. Free at last. But three days later they still had not found water and they cried out and complained. God was testing them. When Moses prayed, God provided the water and he also revealed something new to the people about himself.

"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." (Exodus 15:26)

There it is; God reveals himself as Jehovah-Rophe for the first time to his covenant people. Do you wonder why he chose that particular time to reveal this part of his character? He had just healed the bitter waters of Marah where they were camping. I think he did it in this timing to comfort his people and to give them hope for their future.

Jesus healed people of their sins, He healed their diseases, He healed their emotions, He healed many relationships, He healed other situations. He raised the dead. There is nothing that He can't do. He heals today. Healing can be yours now if you ask Him for it in faith.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

"...Jesus replied, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor- sick people do.'¹³ Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: I want you to be merciful...'" (Matthew 9:12-13)

Jehovah Tsidkenu
The Lord our Righteousness
(Jeremiah 23:6)

"For the time is coming," says the LORD, "when I will place a righteous Branch on King David's throne. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this is his name: 'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.' In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety." (Jeremiah 23:5-6) (NLT)

God is totally righteous. He demands righteousness in us. And He tells us in this verse that what He requires of us, He becomes to us. In 1 Corinthians 1:30, we are told that Christ Jesus has become to us righteousness. And in Him we are declared to be righteous. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 we read "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Now this is so important. Satan wins many victories when we do not realize that our God is Jehovah Tsidkenu.

When you have failed, when you have stumbled, when you have sinned against God, Satan will try to tell you that you are so unworthy and so weak and so guilty that you are inadequate and insufficient to do anything worthwhile in God's service.

We must learn to repent and confess our sin to God, and then to gladly accept that He is Jehovah Tsidkenu, God our Righteousness. He has declared us to be righteous. It is His gift. And we can go on boldly- not in our own righteousness, but in HIS.

Jehovah Shammah
The Lord is Present
(Ezekiel 48:35)

"The distance around the entire city will be six miles. And from that day the name of the city will be `The LORD Is Present.'" (Ezekiel 48:35)

Ezekiel saw a vision of the New Jerusalem and Jesus Christ was there. Jesus Christ is- Jehovah-Shammah. He is "The Eternal God who is Present there."

"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
(Matthew 28:20)

Jesus Christ is not just a far away, transcendent Person who started the universe, wound it up, let it go, and then walked away from it letting it run on it's own. Rather, He is an imminent Person who is always close and near to each of us to help guide, comfort, and teach us about Himself and His ways.

"Jehovah had promised His presence among His people from the beginning (Exodus 23:20; Exodus 33:14-16). Moses reminds the children of Israel of God's "presence" as they are about to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 4:37). In the New Testament, God's "presence" is now in believers as living temples (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

Christ promised His abiding "presence" to His Church (Matthew 28:20), being present even where two or three are gathered in His name (Matthew 18:20). John, the Revelation writer, tells us that there will be no further need of any "outward symbol" of Jehovah's presence, "for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb are the temple thereof" (Revelation 21:22). The eternal character and nature of God's presence with man is beautifully expressed in Revelation 21:3, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell [or tabernacle] with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

Jehovah Nissi
The Lord our Banner
(Exodus 17:15)

"Moses built an altar there and called it "The LORD Is My Banner." (Exodus 17:15)

Jehovah Nissi means the Lord Our Banner.

This is the story of a banner- a banner of blood. It's the story of the old rugged cross. It's the story of the victory of a saviour who is so mighty that He can even conquer death. And because He is so mighty- because He did battle against Satan and was victorious- He can be our general to lead us to victory over our enemies.

A banner is another name for a battle symbol. In Moses time it was a staff (a long stick). In the Bible the banner is the blood of Jesus Christ. How can the Lord's blood be a battle symbol? And what is this all about? And how can it be relevant to you and to me? Well, bear with me and we will try to mine all of these nuggets of truth out of the Word of God together.

This is a story of warfare. It's a story of Jesus Christ going to battle for you and me. There is a description in the Bible of God putting on his armor before He goes out into the fight:

“The LORD looked and was displeased to find that there was no justice. He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with his mighty power and justice. He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head. He clothed himself with the robes of vengeance and godly fury. He will repay his enemies for their evil deeds.”
(Isaiah 59:15-18) (NLT)

The story has its setting in the Old Testament days when Moses was in command of 2-3 million Israelites in the desert right after they left Egypt. Remember, that Moses at one time in Egypt had been a military general so he knew warfare and battle techniques. But he had to set aside most of his self-sufficiency and let God help him in this battle. Remember, that the Lord is Jehovah Sabaoth meaning the Lord of Armies (hosts). He is the greatest general of all. If we attempt to do all of the fighting in our self-sufficiency we will only fail because our flesh is so weak, however, if we allow God to work through us then the battle will be assured. We must fight the battle but rely on God to help us.

And why did the Lord have to help them in all of this fighting? It was an object lesson for you and me to let us know that when we face our battles He is going to come to us and take command and help us do the fighting.

“While the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek came to fight against them. Moses commanded Joshua, “Call the Israelites to arms, and fight the army of Amalek. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” So Joshua did what Moses had commanded. He led his men out to fight the army of Amalek. Meanwhile Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of a nearby hill. As long as Moses held up the staff with his hands, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites gained the upper hand. Moses' arms finally became too tired to hold up the staff any longer. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side, holding up his hands until sunset. As a result, Joshua and his troops were able to crush the army of Amalek. Then the LORD instructed Moses, “Write this down as a permanent record, and announce it to Joshua: I will blot out every trace of Amalek from under heaven.” Moses built an altar there and called it “The LORD Is My Banner.” He said, “They have dared to raise their fist against the LORD's throne, so now the LORD will be at war with Amalek generation after generation.” (Exodus 17:8-16) NLT

The Israelites were going on along just fine. However, they were in enemy territory. We may be going along in life just fine preaching His word and sharing His gospel with others (the Great Commission). But we must remember that Satan is the god of this world- we are in his (enemy) territory.

“They attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who were lagging behind. They had no fear of God.” (Deuteronomy 25:18) (NLT)

The Israelites were at Rephidim. The name means “Rest”. The Amalekites symbolize the major enemies of the Christian today- the world, the flesh, and the devil. All of a sudden the Amalekites attacked the helpless rear of the long line of Israelites. They killed many. It was a cowardly and needless attack. Don't be surprised when all of a sudden you are attacked by your enemies- the world, the flesh, or the devil. It may happen when you least expect it. When you are at rest. It may happen when you are at your weakest.

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.
(Isaiah 59:19) (KJV)

When Satan, our enemy, comes against our life like a flood the Lord will lift up a blood-stained banner against him to give us the victory. That standard (banner) is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan cannot stand against the blood that defeated him on Calvary. So when he comes against you with all he's got then rebuke him in the name of Jesus Christ and plead the blood of Jesus over you and your own. You will be the victor not because of what you have done but because of the One who is victorious through you.

The battle was raging. As long as Moses held up his hands the battle was sure. Holding up our hands has several meanings.

We hold up our hands as a sign of surrender. If an enemy soldier points his gun at us and we hold up our hands it means that we surrender to him. It is always good for each of us to surrender to God. We surrender our self-sufficiency, our self-will, our doubts and fears.

Holding up our hands is also the position of praise. Many times the victory is gained by our praise to God. In spite of the worst of our conditions if we praise Him we may entirely gain the victory. Praise not only shows

love to our Savior but it's a sign to Him from each of us that we are entirely approving and trusting Him to work out our circumstance(s) according to His will and in His timing.

Jehovah Mekeddeshem
The Lord Who Sanctifies
(Leviticus 20:7-8)

"So set yourselves apart to be holy, for I, the LORD, am your God. Keep all my laws and obey them, for I am the LORD, who makes you holy." (Leviticus 20:7-8)

"...for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

Jesus Christ is The Lord Who Sanctifies (The One Who Makes You Holy).

"M'kaddesh" was used to refer to the various parts of the temple which were sanctified, or set apart, for the worship of God.

Now in New Testament times, where is the temple of God?

WE are God's temples. And He is to us Jehovah-M'kaddesh. He himself makes us holy- separates us apart for His use. He Sanctifies us."

The term used for sanctification can be interchanged with holiness as they have nearly the same meaning in Christianity.

Sanctification is in two parts. There is instant sanctification where a change is made instantly in a person due to the impartation of the new birth and a change in the person's nature from carnality to life with Christ. Then there is progressive sanctification which is a process. Living the Christian life takes a lot of practice and there is a lot of learning that needs to take place. And it's not easy. Sometimes there are tests that the Lord gives to us. The test score is not pass or fail. Rather, it is an indication to us of where we stand in holiness as compared to the holiness of Jesus Christ. This can take place over the period of a life time.

Numbers 11:17; 27:18 NKJV

Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 14:6 NKJV

1 Samuel 10:6-7; 16:13 NKJV

2 Chronicles 15:1; 24:20

Micah 3:8 NKJV

Joel 2:28-29 NKJV

Acts 2:17, 18, 21 NKJV

QUESTIONS:

"Has the Spirit been poured out in your life?"

"What is the evidence that the Spirit of God has taken up residence in you?"

"Would you just like to lay low and not get involved?"

"Are you one who wants to see the mighty power of God?"

"Do you want to just slip into Heaven doing the bare minimum?"