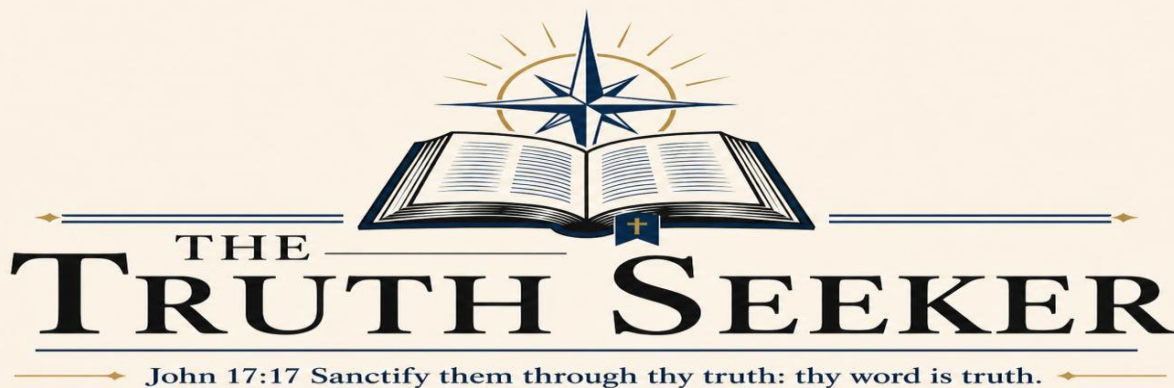


THE TRUTH SEEKER CHRISTIAN JOURNAL

Introducing The Truth Seeker - Issue No. 2

A classic Christian journal dedicated to exploring biblical truth, doctrine, and teaching.

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE



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Welcome to the second issue of The Truth Seeker, a publication dedicated to returning hearts and minds back to the absolute authority of God's Word.

This edition focuses on God's Plan of Redemption for mankind, tracing His unfolding grace as we journey through the time of the Patriarchs. Designed to equip believers to navigate life's challenges, these studies demonstrate that we can fully trust God, that His grace is always sufficient, and that He eternally holds our best in mind. From examining our own diligence in the scriptures to looking at historical examples of radical faith, this issue challenges us to trust Him with both our earthly needs and our eternal salvation.

Theological Insights: Clear articles explaining core Bible doctrines.

Practical Guidance: Studies for living faithfully in a confused world.

Teaching Highlights: Bible lessons, word studies, and scriptural reflections.

The Truth Seeker is more than a publication - it is a call to return to the Word of God with humility, courage, and conviction.

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From the Editor

A reminder to rest in God's provision.

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second issue of The Truth Seeker. As we step into this next edition, our foundational mission remains unchanged: to ground our hearts, minds, and lives completely in the unshakeable authority of Scripture.

In this issue, our underlying theme centers on a profound truth and a beautiful name of God: Jehovah-Jireh — The Lord will provide.

Too often, we are tempted to rely on our own strength, look to human traditions, or let the shifting opinions of the culture dictate our steps. However, when we look back at the pages of Scripture, we find a consistent and historic reality. A reality that declares, God always has a plan, His grace is fully sufficient, and He eternally holds our best in mind. He is a God who can be fully and radically trusted.

We will trace this unfolding grace by journeying through the biblical period of the Patriarchs, seeing how God orchestrated His masterful plan of redemption from the very beginning. We will dive into a doctrinal spotlight on Salvation Through Grace Alone, and looking at a historic example of absolute reliance on God in the life of George Müller.

My prayer is that as you read these pages, you will be challenged to examine what you believe, cast aside the anxiety of this confused world, and find rest in the provision of our Savior. God has provided everything we need for both our earthly journey in this present life, and our eternal salvation. Let us return to His Word together.

Your brother in Christ,

David Elks

IN THIS ISSUE

- God's Plan for Redemption
- A Journey Through the Bible: The Patriarchs
- Doctrinal Spotlight: Salvation Through Grace Alone
- One-Minute Apologetics: Can We Trust God's Grace?
- Giants of the Faith: George Müller

God's Plan for Redemption

Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord Will Provide

"My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." — Genesis 22:8

The story of Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah provides one of the clearest pictures of redemption in the Patriarchal period. Abraham was commanded by God to offer Isaac, and Abraham fully trusted God. When Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb?" Abraham prophetically answered, *"God will provide himself a lamb."* At the final moment, God stopped Abraham and provided a ram to die in Isaac's place. Out of total surrender and through a profound test of faith, Abraham named that place "Jehovah-Jireh." God provided the substitute, and ensuring that all the nations would be blessed through Abraham's descendants.

What Abraham saw and experienced in shadow, the gospel reveals in its fullness through Christ Jesus. God's redemption is never a panicked response to human failure. Even before the world began, God knew the cost of our redemption; Christ is *"the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"* (Revelation 13:8)—the perfect Substitute for all mankind.

God Tested Abraham's Faith

Genesis 22 begins with God testing Abraham. This was not because God lacked knowledge, but because Abraham's faith was being probed, refined, and displayed before the world. Abraham had received the promise, but now he was called to trust the God of the promise.

True faith is not merely an intellectual agreement that God exists. True faith trusts God even when obedience is costly, when the path is not entirely clear, and when the command of God tests the deepest affections and fears of the human heart.

Isaac Carried the Wood

Isaac carried the wood for the burnt offering up that mountain. This detail is simple, but immensely powerful. The "son of promise" personally bore the weight of the wood to the place of sacrifice.

As Christians, we cannot miss the foreshadowing of Christ in this story. Like Isaac, who obeyed his father and carried the wood for the altar, Jesus too, would bear His cross on His own shoulders and go up that same mountain to the place of the ultimate sacrifice.

The Ram Died in Isaac's Place

When Abraham lifted his eyes, he saw a ram caught in a thicket. God provided the substitute. Isaac was able to walk down that mountain alive only because another sacrifice died in his place. This is the heart of biblical redemption: the sinner cannot save himself. Man is not worthy to be his own sacrifice; he is guilty, destitute, and in need of mercy. God must provide what man cannot manufacture. The ram served as a foreshadowing and type of Christ, who is the enduring and eternal reality.

Key Insight

On Mount Moriah, the Lord provided a substitute for Isaac. At Calvary, God provided His own Son as the true sacrifice for sinners.

The message of redemption is not that man reaches up and saves himself; the message is that God has come down and offered Himself as The ultimate sacrifice.

Closing Thought

Jehovah-Jireh reminds us that God's provision is not merely about earthly comforts or physical needs. God's greatest provision is eternal redemption through Jesus Christ, *"...the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."*

A Journey Through the Bible: The Patriarchs

The time of the Patriarchs marks the very "genesis" of the Hebrew people. Following the fall of man and the entrance of sin into the world, God's attention focused on a plan of redemption for mankind. He set out to establish a distinct people in this world who would reflect a right relationship between Himself and the humanity He created.

The Hebrew people were chosen to be a living testimony to the surrounding nations concerning the immense blessings and benefits of serving the one true and living God. Being such, they were chosen to be the lineage through whom the "seed of the woman" would eventually come and crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15).

Through the Scriptures, God reveals both the good deeds and failures of His people. Through it all, we see that salvation is an act of sovereign grace that demands a living, active, and unwavering faith from those who receive it.

Abraham: The Father of Faith (Genesis 12–23)

God initiated His covenant by calling Abraham out of the pagan city of Ur of the Chaldees. God promised him three distinct things: a country (land), countless descendants (seed), and a worldwide, timeless impact (blessing). Known across Scripture as "The Father of Faith" and called "The friend of God," Abraham serves as the premier biblical example of a man who trusted God enough to pack up his life and obey (Romans 4:1-12; James 2:23).

- **The Redemptive Link:** God's promise that *"in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"* (Genesis 22:18) was a universal declaration. This blessing was not restricted to a select few, but rather a blessing that would offer redemption to the entire world.

Isaac: The Son of Promise (Genesis 24–26)

As Abraham's second son, Isaac became the miraculous fulfillment and the legal heir to the promises passed down from his father (Genesis 17:21). He is unique among the patriarchs as the only one whose name was never changed by God, and he lived to be 180 years old—the longest-lived of the three patriarchal fathers.

- **The Redemptive Link:** On Mount Moriah, Isaac became a living "type" of Christ. When he was laid upon the altar, God provided a substitute ram in his place. This vividly demonstrated that while human sin deserves death, God's grace provides a perfect substitute for all who walk in obedient faith.

Jacob: The Father of the Tribes (Genesis 27–35)

Jacob started as a scheming deceiver, but through divine encounters and personal crises his character was transformed. God renamed him Israel, and his twelve sons became the foundation of the twelve tribes. While Abraham was the father of the Hebrew race, Jacob was the father of the nation of Israel, and with his death in Egypt, the Patriarchal period officially ended.

- **The Redemptive Link:** The fact that God passed the covenant to a flawed, scheming man like Jacob underscores that redemption is rooted entirely in grace, not human perfection. God takes broken individuals and transforms them into instruments for His sovereign purpose.

Joseph: The Sovereign Preserver (Genesis 37–50)

Though Joseph is not technically counted as one of the three Patriarchs of Israel, he played a vital role in preserving the Hebrew people. Driven by jealousy and a lack of commitment to God's covenant, Jacob's older sons sold Joseph who ultimately ended up in Egyptian slavery. Yet, because of Joseph's unwavering faith, God elevated him from a prison cell to become the second-most powerful leader in Egypt. During a catastrophic famine, his family journeyed to Egypt for food, where they were reunited with him and saved from starvation.

- **The Redemptive Link:** Joseph stands as one of the clearest foreshadows of Christ in the Old Testament. What his brothers intended for evil, God intentionally overruled for ultimate good in order to bring about the physical salvation of many souls (Genesis 50:20).

Doctrinal Spotlight: Salvation by Grace Alone

In the historical landscape of the church, truths can become neglected, much like the ancient water wells that were filled with dirt. One of the most profound biblical truths recovered during the Reformation was *Sola Gratia* or Salvation by Grace Alone. The Bible teaches with absolute clarity that salvation is completely a work of God alone in its origin, its implementation, and its final realization. It cannot be earned, bought, or produced by human effort, good works, religious rituals, or personal merit. It is a gift of God, given to undeserving sinners through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

1. The Origin: Grace Planned from Eternity

Grace is, God's unmerited favor toward those who deserve judgment.

From the very beginning, man's redemption has been entirely God's work, showing His immense kindness through Jesus Christ. Before the Fall, God established this plan, with Christ being slain from the foundation of the world. Christ Jesus accomplished this divine redemption through His death, burial, and resurrection.

"The grace of God is as free as the light of the sun or the dew from heaven. It is not obtained by human effort or merit, nor is it withheld because of human unworthiness. Everything God gives through Christ is by grace alone. To suggest that any act or merit within the sinner prepares him to receive grace would fundamentally change and ultimately destroy the very nature of grace." *Adapted from Robert Hawker, The Poor Man's Concordance (public domain).*

2. The Implementation: Pictures in the Old Paths

The Patriarchal period itself points us directly to this truth. When we look at the lives of the early fathers, it becomes immediately obvious that no one earned their standing before God:

Abraham did not earn God's covenant promises. He was a pagan living in Ur of the Chaldees when God graciously called him and gave him a universal promise to bless all nations through his seed. Isaac did not earn his physical deliverance on Mount Moriah. He was bound on the wood, facing death, when God intervened.

The message written across the pages of Genesis is the exact same message found throughout the entirety of Scripture: God graciously provides what man cannot provide for himself. Just as the ram died in Isaac's place on that mountain, Christ died as the ultimate, spotless Substitute in the place of sinners.

3. The Realization: Safe in His Workmanship

Salvation by grace alone does not mean that human responsibility or good works are unimportant. Rather, biblical good works are an undeniable and direct **result** of salvation, never the cause of it. We are not saved because we obey; we obey because we have been saved. True faith is not idle, complacent, or passive **Faith works** - meaning it is active and alive within the heart. Grace teaches us that, "*denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.*"

Believers are created anew in Christ Jesus, specifically to walk in those good works which God has before ordained. This grace doesn't just patch up our past and leave us to finish the job in our own strength; the same grace that initially justifies a sinner is the grace that sustains us, teaches us, and will one day bring our bodies safely home into final glorification.

The ultimate glory of the gospel is that salvation belongs entirely to the Lord. Because it is a work of pure divine grace from the first promise in Genesis to the final liberty of the children of God, human boasting is completely excluded, and all praise, honor, and glory belong to God alone.

Key Truth

Salvation is not achieved by human effort; it is received as a gracious gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Closing Thought

Since salvation is by grace alone, then no sinner is beyond hope, and no believer has room for pride. Stop working to earn what has already been freely given. Rest completely in the finished work of Jesus Christ and turn away from self-reliance.

One-Minute Apologetics:

The Question of Assurance: Can We Trust God's Grace?

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:16

The Challenge

Can I really trust God's grace? How can I know I'm saved? I don't always feel saved or close to God. I'm afraid that I've messed up too many times for His grace to cover me.

1. The Character of the Giver

The reliability of any promise depends entirely on the character of the one who made it. **We can trust God's grace because of who He is.**

- **God is omnipotent:** This means He is all-powerful, which speaks directly to His absolute ability to save. No matter how deep our brokenness, His hand can restore and heal. No sin is dark enough to withstand His piercing light, too wretched for His cleansing blood, or too vast for His love to cover.
- **The veracity of God:** This means He cannot lie. Truthfulness is an intrinsic moral attribute of God; because He is the Creator, He is the fountain and final measure of all truth. Titus 1:2 tells us explicitly that God cannot lie, and Revelation declares that He is the "Faithful and True" witness (Revelation 1:5, 3:14). If He promises favor, He cannot break His word. Christ Himself declares in John 14:6 that He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life.
- **It is His will to save:** His willingness and desire to redeem is put on full display through the advent of the incarnate Son of God, who came "in the fullness of time." At the exact moment when the conditions were perfect, God broke 400 years of silence, proving that He is not only entirely willing to rescue us, but that He orchestrated all of time and space to reach us in exactly the perfect moment.

2. The Certainty of Scripture

We don't have to guess how God feels about us; When doubt and uncertainty seem to overwhelm us, we need only to turn to the scriptures.

- **He is unfailingly faithful:** The Bible relentlessly hammers this truth home. He is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9), faithful to keep us (1 Cor. 1:9, 1 Thess. 5:24), and even "if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2:13).
- **We can possess absolute assurance:** God does not want us living in anxious suspense. The Apostle John explicitly states, "I write these things to you... that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).
- **It is completely independent of our works:** In Galatians 3, Paul fiercely rebukes the idea that we start our journey in the Spirit but must maintain it through our own fleshly efforts. Grace is entirely about Christ's finished work, not our fluctuating emotions or a moral scorecard. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15)—and this is a trustworthy saying.

3. The Evidence of a Transformed Life

Finally, we can trust God's grace because it can be seen actively working. The Holy Spirit leaves a visible and spiritual mark upon the heart of the believer.

An honest evaluation of a Christian's new heart reveals an internal witness. The Spirit floods our lives with supernatural realities that the world simply cannot manufacture:

- **Love** is shed abroad into our hearts (Rom. 5:5)
- **Peace** that surpasses human understanding (Phil. 4:7)
- **Joy** that is "*unspeakable and full of glory*" even during trials (1 Pet. 1:8)

This transformation is so real that it becomes visible to others. Fellow believers will recognize the new life and fruit of the Spirit in us. Even those outside the faith will recognize, even if they don't know how to properly name what they are seeing, that something fundamentally different, something clean and alive, is now active in our lives.

Giants of the Faith

George Müller: The Man of Infinite Prayer

"The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord."

Early Life and Dissipation (1805–1825)

George Müller was born in Prussia in 1805. Though raised on worldly principles, his youth was quickly overtaken by a dark and destructive path. He became a habitual liar, a thief who defrauded his father, and he even stole government funds that his father was in charge of. Sadly, the sudden shock of his mother's death when he was only fourteen failed to impact his hardened heart, and he continued headlong into rebellion.

By sixteen, George's reckless behavior caught up with him. Arrested for defrauding a hotel, he spent weeks in prison among common criminals. Yet, this wake-up call did not change his trajectory. He later enrolled at Halle University to study divinity—not to serve God, but purely to secure a comfortable, respectable living. Instead of studying, he plunged back into a profligate lifestyle, funding his heavy drinking and vices by running up massive debts and pawning his belongings.

The Turning Point: Conversion (1825)

Everything began to change on a cold Saturday evening in November 1825. George's close friend, Beta, invited him to a simple Christian meeting held at the home of a local tradesman named Wagner. George went along out of sheer curiosity, but what he witnessed there shook him to his core: he watched a believer fall to his knees and pray with a level of sincerity he had never seen before.

That single evening became the turning point of George's entire life. A profound work of God's grace began in his heart, and he soon walked away from his wicked companions, turned his back on the taverns, and abandoned his habitual life of deceit. In their place, he began a new life, eagerly reading the Scriptures and committing himself to daily prayer. Though he still stumbled on occasion, the direction of his life had changed forever.

Call to Missionary Work and Move to England (1826–1829)

As his faith deepened, George became convinced that God was calling him to missionary work. This decision deeply angered his father. In response, George made a radical choice: he refused to accept any more of his father's financial support, choosing instead to rely entirely on the Lord. In time, he saw God's faithful provision through unexpected teaching opportunities.

Desiring to go where he was most needed, he offered his services to the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews. A long delay followed, during which George faced a severe illness that left him physically incapacitated. Yet, in this trial, God provided a way forward by granting him a permanent medical exemption from mandatory Prussian military service. With the path finally cleared, George arrived safely in London in March 1829 to study at the missionary seminary, mastering Hebrew and Chaldee while anchoring his soul in diligent prayer.

Spiritual Awakening in Devonshire (1829)

Shortly after arriving in England, George fell dangerously ill. Instead of despairing, he overwhelmed with immense spiritual joy and a complete willingness to submit to God's will. To recover his strength, he traveled to the seaside town of Teignmouth, where he struck up a deep friendship with fellow laborer Henry Craik. During this period, George experienced a profound spiritual awakening as God impressed upon him that the Word of God alone must be his ultimate standard of truth. He wholeheartedly embraced the doctrines of election and perseverance, and his focus shifted from a passive longing for death to an eager anticipation of Christ's return. These convictions shaped the remainder of his ministry, leading him to embrace a simple, devoted life and to count it a privilege to endure poverty and reproach for the sake of Christ.