

## **Mount Moriah: The Place Where The LORD Provides**

**Intro:** The past several weeks we have been studying various places in the Bible, and the events and persons that made them famous. We have looked at Hebron, Beersheba, and Capernaum. This morning I would like to turn our attention to a mountain, Mt. Moriah. It's actually not a mountain but a hill. Mt. Moriah is the place where God tested Abraham's faith in commanding him to offer his son Isaac to Him as a burnt offering, but intervened by providing the sacrifice Himself (Genesis 22). God graciously provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. Latter all Israel would offer sacrificial animals to the LORD at the temple on Mt. Moriah. This leads to the New Testament where God substituted His only Son, Jesus Christ, for the animal, and the perfect sinless sacrifice was provided. Just as Abraham was willing to offer up his son Isaac in obedience to God, so Paul writes in Romans 8:32, "God did not spare His own Son, but gave (delivered) Him up for us all."

In naming the place Mt. Moriah, Abraham was commemorating his own trust in God to provide a sacrifice in place of his son Isaac. Abraham had come to trust God, even when he couldn't make sense of His will. He knew that as the son of promise, God planned the future around Isaac. *Even though Abraham couldn't understand what God was doing, he obeyed anyway. That's faith my friends.*

Look with me this morning at Mt. Moriah, the place where God has provided Himself as the sacrifice for sin. Turn with me in your Bible to **Genesis chapter 22**.

### **I. God Tests Abraham's Faith (Genesis 22)**

#### A. God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen. 22:1-2)

Our story actually begins at Beersheba, where Abraham was living when the events of Genesis 22 took place. Beersheba you recall from our lesson a few weeks ago is located in the northern Negev, and it marked the southernmost boundary of Israel. Beersheba was the location of a well of water where God met with several OT saints. We read in Genesis 22, verse 1 that God tested Abraham's faith. He called on Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. God said to Abraham, in v. 2 "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah—**Here it is, the very first occurrence of Mt. Moriah**—"and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

It should be noted that Mt. Moriah is only used twice in the entire Bible. Here in Genesis 22:2 and once again in 2 Chronicle 3:1. The name Moriah has 2 possible meanings associated with a Hebrew verb meaning “*to see*” or “*to provide*.” In Jerusalem, as in no other place on earth, the LORD God would be seen at His temple, and He would provide for His people through the sacrifices He would graciously ordain. **Genesis 22:14** indicates that later generations would know this place as “the mountain *or* hill of the LORD.” This place is commonly referred to throughout the Old Testament as Mt. Zion and Jerusalem (see Ps. 24:3; Isa. 2:3; Zech. 8:3).

Mt. Moriah is referred to here as “the land of Moriah,” rather than a mountain. However, God tells Abraham that He will direct him to one of the mountains in this region, which He names Moriah. Most Bible commentators believe that this is the location where God later instructs David concerning the building of His temple. In any event, Abraham’s response to God’s command is staggering—he responded with unquestioning obedience, Genesis 22:verses 3-8,

#### B. Abraham’s obedience to God (Gen. 22:3-8)

We read in verse 3—Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Again, Abraham’s response to God’s command is staggering—he responded with unquestioning obedience.

We learn in verse 4 of Genesis 22, that Mt. Moriah was a three-day journey. Since a days journey in Old Testament times was considered to be around 20 miles, a three days journey would make this a 40-50 mile journey from Beersheba to Mt. Moriah. The Mt. Moriah that later appears in Scripture as the sight of Solomon’s temple is in fact 45 miles northeast from Beersheba. I am referring of course to the Temple Mount located within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem (2 Chron. 3:1). In v. 5 Abraham instructed his two young men to remain behind with the donkeys while he and Isaac went up to worship the LORD. His statement, that they were going to go up to worship, and would return, is amazing. Abraham was exercising faith in the promise of God.

As they headed up the mountain together, Isaac asked his father in v. 7, “We have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham again displays marvelous faith. He assures Isaac in verse 8 that “God will provide Himself the lamb for the burnt offering.” Abraham knew that

since God had made a covenant with him to bless all mankind through his son Isaac (Genesis 12 and 15), He would have to give him back to him, even if he was sacrificed as a burnt offering. Abraham had learned to trust in God, who had declared to him in Genesis 18:14 concerning the birth of Isaac to him and Sarah that were as good as dead, “Nothing is too difficult for the LORD.” He is *Yahweh Yireh*, “the God who provides.”

### C. God’s intervention and provision of the sacrifice (Gen. 22:9-14)

We read in verse 9 that Abraham and Isaac “came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 And he said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked behind him and behold, a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering *in the place of his son*. v. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.” True worship requires one to accept by faith God’s sacrificial substitute.

**Here it is friends, Mt. Moriah is the place where the LORD provides.** God graciously provided a substitute for Isaac. This event prefigures the New Testament offering of God’s only Son, Jesus Christ. He would come as the sacrificial “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Because of Abraham’s obedience on Mount Moriah in not withholding his only son, God promised Abraham in vv. 17-18 that He would “greatly bless and greatly multiply his descendants as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 “And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

You and I are blessed brothers and sisters because of Abraham’s obedience. The Lord Jesus Christ came through the seed of Abraham. And everyone who believes in Him passes from death to life. **Hallelujah, what a Savior!**

## II. Mt. Moriah Becomes The Sight Of Yahweh's Temple (2 Samuel 24)

### A. David acquires Mt. Moriah, and Solomon builds the temple

According to 2 Chronicles 3:1 Mt. Moriah was the location where roughly a thousand years later Yahweh appeared to David and instructed him to purchase the threshing floor of a Jebusite named Ornan. David had committed evil in the sight of God by ordering a census to determine the number of fighting men in Israel (2 Sam. 24; 1 Chron. 21). The LORD released a plague on Israel and 70,000 people from Dan to Beersheba died. When David saw the angel of the LORD striking down the people, He called on God to punish him, but spare His people, who were like sheep.

The LORD sent the prophet Gad to David and commanded him to build an altar and offer sacrifices on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (2 Sam. 24:18). David purchased the threshing floor and surrounding property from Ornan for 600 shekels of gold. David built an altar and offered sacrifices to the LORD, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

The LORD later informed David that this site would become His dwelling place among His people Israel, forever. David desired to build a temple to the LORD on this property, but God chose his son Solomon instead. David amassed the materials and the plans provided by God Himself, and following his death, Solomon constructed the temple on this same site (1 Kgs. 5; 1 Chron. 22). Solomon's temple stood for over four hundred years until it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C.

### B. Zerubbabel and King Herod's temple

Seventy years later the temple was rebuilt on the same site by Jews who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel following their Babylon captivity. Several hundred years later, King Herod made a significant addition to this structure. Work was carried out on the temple from 12 B.C. to the time of Christ, in A.D. 30. From then on it became known as Herod's Temple.

It was at this same temple on Mt. Moriah that Jesus Christ presented Himself as Messiah to the Jews of His day. He was rejected and crucified for the sins of the world. As Jesus predicted, the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Titus and his Roman legions.

### III. Anti-Christ's Temple On MT. Moriah (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; Rev. 19:20)

The Bible indicates that a third temple will be built on Mt. Moriah during the Tribulation period. According to the prophet Daniel, the Antichrist will make a seven-year peace-pact with the Jewish people at the beginning of the Tribulation period, presumably allowing them to rebuild their temple, but will break his covenant with them in the middle of the 7 years (Dan. 9:27). Christ refers to this event in Matthew 24:15 as the “abomination which makes desolate.” Antichrist will desecrate the temple and demand to be worshipped as God. Christ Himself will throw Antichrist and his false prophet into the lake of fire when He comes on the clouds in power and great glory (Rev. 19:20).

### IV. Christ's Millennial Temple On Mt. Moriah (Ezekiel 40–43)

The LORD God who first called Abraham to Mount Moriah still has plans for this holy place. The prophet Ezekiel was provided detailed measurements of the future temple where Christ will be enthroned in glory during His Millennial reign on earth (Ezek. 40–42). This new and glorious temple on Mt. Moriah will serve as the climax to Israel's restoration as the people of God. Ezekiel also witnessed the dramatic reversal of the departure of God's glory, which he had witnessed in chapters 10–11. He sees the glory of the God of Israel returning from the way of the east (Ezek. 43:1-3). He watches as the glory of the God of Israel returns to take up His abode in this magnificent temple, where He says in v. 7, He will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. He concludes in verse 12 that the temple will sit on the top of the holy mountain, Mt. Moriah.

### V. God Indwells His People By His Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Did you know that God now dwells in people? On the Day of Pentecost God began to indwell believers' lives (Acts 2). You and I are the temple of God. This teaching has powerful implication for our lives. Look with me at 1 Corinthians chapter 3; **1 Corinthians 3:16**—“Do you not know,” Paul says, “that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” God says, You and I are the temple now. Paul continues in verse 17 “the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.” Did you get what Paul is saying here? You and I are a Mt. Moriah, with the temple of God residing in our hearts. God lives in our hearts today.

**Turn over to 1 Corinthians 6:19**—“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that

you are not your own? 20 “For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

Here it is again, you and I are Mt. Moriah, and God is dwelling in the temple of our hearts today by the Holy Spirit who is in us.

Conclusion:

As Paul reminds us, every child of God is a personal Mt. Moriah where God lives. A true understanding of this profound truth demands a new level of personal commitment to our Savior Jesus Christ. A new commitment to obedience and to holy living. As temples of God, this is what is demanded of us brothers and sisters.

What we need this morning, as we move into the Christmas season, is a visit to Mt Moriah, spiritually speaking. It is at Mt. Moriah where we learn the secret of the Spirit’s filling. It is at Mt. Moriah where we learn to trust in God to care for our every need. It is at Mt. Moriah where we learn to experience His power in our daily lives.

Have you accepted the new and living way that God is offering to any and all through faith in His Son? If not, may I invite you to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin and death as I close our service in prayer? Fellow believer, are you holding fast to your confession in Christ without wavering? Do you spend time in His Word and prayer every day? If not, ask God to cleanse your heart and to renew your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s pray!

**The Lord’s Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**