

Mount Moriah: The Place Where God Provided His Son As The Sacrifice For Sin

Intro: Next week is Easter Sunday, the day we commemorate Christ's victory over sin and death. Early on Sunday morning, nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ arose from the dead, just as He said He would. As we generally do every year on the Sunday prior to Easter Sunday, we look at Christ's death for sin. As you all know, Jesus Christ was crucified for the sin of the world. It was for this very purpose that He came into the world. All four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, present the story of how God substituted His only Son, Jesus Christ, as the perfect sinless sacrifice for sin. John the Baptist testified concerning Christ in **John 1:29**—"Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" The Apostle John explains in **John 3:16** "that God gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Did you know that the story of God's sending His Son to die for the sins of the world is actually prefigured in the Old Testament account of Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac in Genesis 22. 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."

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 (Genesis 22). God graciously provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. Again, Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac prefigured God's sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Look with me this morning at Mt. Moriah, the place where God Himself provided the sacrifice for sin in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Turn with me in your Bible to **Genesis chapter 22**.

I. God Commands Abraham To Sacrifice His Son Isaac (Genesis 22)

A. God tests Abraham's faith (Gen. 22:1-2)

Our story actually begins at Beersheba, where Abraham was living when the events of Genesis 22 took place. Beersheba is located in the northern

Negev, and it marked Israel's southernmost boundary. 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 travel to Mount Moriah and 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 "and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." This is first of only two occurrences of Mt. Moriah in the entire Bible. The other is found in 2 Chronicle 3:1.

The name Moriah has 2 possible meanings, derived from the 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 provide. **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 48 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 an amazing display of faith. 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 *Yahweh Yireh*, “The LORD Will Provide.” As it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.” True worship accepts by faith God’s sacrificial substitute.

Here it is friends. Mt. Moriah is the place where the LORD provides. He is *Yahweh Yireh*, the God who provides. God’s provision of a substitute for Isaac actually 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 God’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 to spare His people, who were like innocent little 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 nearly four hundred years; from 967 B.C. until it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C.

B. Zerubbabel and King Herod’s temple

Seventy years later in 538 B.C. Cyrus king of Persia issued a proclamation

allowing the Jews to return to Judah to rebuild God's temple. Two years later, in 536 B.C. Zerubbabel and a remnant of nearly 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem and laid the foundation upon which the temple was eventually rebuilt. Several hundred years later, King Herod made several magnificent additions to this structure. He carried-out work 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.

III. Mt. Moriah Is Where Christ Died For The Sin Of The World (John 19:17-37)

It was at this same temple on Mt. Moriah that Jesus Christ presented Himself as Messiah to the Jews of His day. This event is known as Palm Sunday. The same crowds that cried out Hosanna, "Lord save Now!," turned against Christ on Friday, and cried out "Crucify Him."

All four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, record the story of how God substituted His only Son, Jesus Christ, as the perfect sinless sacrifice for sin. As you all know, Jesus Christ was crucified for the sin of the world. It was for this very purpose that He came into the world. John the Baptist testified concerning Christ in **John 1:29**—"Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" The Apostle John explains in **John 3:16** "that God gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." **The writer to the Hebrews explains in chapter 10, verse 10**, that we have been sanctified [set apart unto God], through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Look down at **verse 14, of Hebrews 10**, "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." That is, those who have confessed their sin, and in faith asked Jesus Christ to come into their hearts to forgive and to save them.

This is the story of Easter friends, that God has sent His son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sin of the world. We read the account of His crucifixion in **John 19:17-37**. I am reading from **John 19, beginning in verse 17**,

17 They took Jesus therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. **18** There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. **19** And Pilate wrote an inscription also, and put it on the cross. And it was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

A small detachment of Roman soldiers led Jesus out of Jerusalem, carrying His own cross, to the place called Golgotha, which is Aramaic for “the place of the skull.” This is most often referred to as Calvary, which is Latin. Golgotha or Calvary was a horrible place of suffering. It was here that the Romans crucified criminals. While we can’t be certain, Golgotha may very well be the same location on Mount Moriah, where God directed Abraham to offer up Isaac.

John goes on to tell us in **John 19 verses 38-42**, that following Christ’s death, Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus, along with Nicodemus, took Jesus’ body down from the cross and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews” (v. 40). Matthew informs us that they laid Jesus in a new garden tomb that had been prepared for Joseph of Arimathea; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away (Matt. 27:60).

Christ was rejected and crucified for the sin of the world, but that was not the end of the story. As Jesus predicted, He arose from the dead on the third day. We will look at Christ’s victory over death next Sunday morning, Lord willing.

IV. Mt. Moriah Will Be The Sight Of Jesus Christ’s Future Rule

A. Christ’s prediction of the Temple’s destruction (Matt. 24:2; Luke 21:20; Dan. 9:24-27)

Not only did Jesus predict His resurrection from the dead, He also told His disciples that the temple would be destroyed. Matthew 24:1-2—As they came out from the temple, and were going away, Jesus’ disciples pointed out the temple buildings to Him.” Jesus answered and said, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” Luke adds in chapter 21, verse 20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand.” Jesus was referring to Daniel’s prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27, which predicts the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the people of the prince who is to come (v. 26). The people of the prince who is to come is a reference to the Romans. History records that Christ’s words were fulfilled in A.D. 70 when Titus and his Roman legions leveled the temple and destroyed Jerusalem.

B. Antichrist rebuilds the temple on Mt. Moriah

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).

C. 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 God, Jesus Christ, 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.

According to Revelation 20: Christ will reign from His newly built temple on Mount Moriah for a thousand years. A period known as the Millennial Reign of Christ. The word *Millennium* is a transliteration of the Latin words *mille*—thousand, and *annum*—years.

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

Did you know that God now dwells in His 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 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 He presently dwells in. 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 begin to celebrate Christ’ resurrection from the dead on that first Easter morning, 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 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!

Closing Song: Cherye Fulks