

MOUNT MORIAH, A HOLY SITE

"After these events, God tested and proved Abraham and said to him, Abraham! And he said, Here I am. [God] said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love and go to the region of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you...On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance, and he said to his servants, Settle down and stay here with the donkey, and I and the young man will go yonder and worship and come again to you. Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, and laid it on [the shoulders of] Isaac his son, and he took the fire in his own hand and a knife; and the two of them went on together. And Isaac said to Abraham, My father! And said, See here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering? Abraham said, My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering. So, the two went on together." (Gen. 22:1-2,4-8)

Let's assume that it was almost dawn when Abraham arrived at the place God ordained him to go. Before him, everything stood clearly. It was as if Abraham was living in the future although, he did not perceive the spiritual meaning of what he was seeing. The place, yes, the place, most definitely was where Adam and Eve stood before the Lord listening to their fate as a consequence of their rebellion against Him, but again, that place was also where God promised them a Redeemer. Many years later, Abraham stood in that place, as he called, "The Lord will provide" with certainty of those words. These were prophetic words the Lord was speaking through Abraham, confirming His promise to Adam many years past. Now, Isaac needed to hear them. His life was at the point of being sacrificed in that mount called, the Mount of the Lord. Even though tied to the altar, Isaac still believed the words, "The Lord will provide a lamb for the sacrifice" on this mount. Abraham and Isaac could only understand what was happening in their tangible way, but not in the spiritual realm. They could not perceive that in that place, God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit were standing alongside with them, agreeing that was to be the place His Son was to be sacrificed. Redemption was going to take place where our parents sinned, for it needed washing with the redemptive blood of the Lamb of God; the only blood free from stains of sin; the only blood with the washing power. In fact, in the course of God's timing, His Son came and was crucified in that place for all to see. And like Abraham and Isaac, people of that time, saw many things that were happening, but they did not perceive their meaning; they did not perceive the anguish of God's Son in His cry, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? was their cry in hell, because they had rejected the Son of God; they did not know that YAHSHUA was suffering their pain of hell, where the presence of God was completely void. No, they did not, instead, they offered Him vinegar to drink to ease His pain. They did not perceive that the earthquake they felt was the earth responding to the touch of YAHSHUA'S blood when it was shed upon it; that Nature trembled at the touch of the Creator's blood. Yes, nature did, but men did not.

The Jewish nation experienced the reality of Abraham's and Isaac's prophetic ordeal, but they did not perceive, for they were blind in their rejection of the Truth. They were in bondage to their tradition. *"He came for His own, and they who were His own did not receive Him and did*

not welcome Him; but to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12-13). Who has believed our message? [For many, the Servant of God became an object of horror; many were astonished at Him.] His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men- but just as many were astonished at Him, so shall He startle and sprinkle many nations, and kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them shall they see, and that which they have not heard shall they consider and understand (Is. 53,52:14-15).

After experiencing God's judgment upon the people, David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and the heavens, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces... Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and set up an altar to the Lord in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. Then the Lord commanded the angel and he put his sword back into its sheath. When David saw that the Lord had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. Then he said, Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of the burnt offering for Israel. David commanded to gather together the strangers who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of the Lord (1 Chro. 21-22). So, it was that the temple was built on that site where David experienced the presence of the Lord. Mount Moriah, a site chosen by our God to implement His plan of long ago, when Abraham obediently sacrificed his only son, figurative of God having His only Son sacrificed on those mount ranges. In the sight of God and men, Mount Moriah is a holy site. History speaks loudly from this mount. It shines the rays of God's love from generation to generation. It was there that the blood of YAHSHUA was spilled, bringing salvation through forgiveness to all who will come to Him. Three days later, Abraham saw the chosen mount where he was to sacrifice his son. Abraham reasoned that God was able to raise [Isaac] up even from among the dead. Indeed, in the sense that Isaac was figuratively dead, Abraham did [actually] receive him back from the dead (Heb. 11:19) on that third day. God's Son was raised from the dead on the third day of His death. Mount Moriah is truly filled with events that lives for eternity, where History is marked with YAHSHUA'S blood- His love.

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaching to the lowest hell.
Oh, love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels' song.
(Frederick M. Lehman)

Imagine God standing at that place, promising Adam and Eve their redemption (Gen. 3:15); then later, having Abraham sacrificing his son in a figurative way

(Gen. 22); imagine Isaac carrying the stack of wood on his back for his sacrifice, symbolic of YAHSHUA carrying our cross and being sacrificed; then perceive Him being crucified in that same place, then imagine you kneeling at the cross and being bathed with His blood, being forgiven and made into a new creation- the old had passed; all has been made new!

THINK ABOUT IT!