

## Thinking About Easter - Part 8

# The Importance of Mount Moriah



*And Abraham said, My son, God will provide **himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. <sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah Jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be provided. (Genesis 22:8, 14)*

The Lamb of God is a wonderful biblical word picture. It is not a new biblical concept but existed as far back as Cain and Abel. (Genesis 4:3-7) Some speculate that the acceptable sacrifice made by Abel was of a lamb without spot or blemish.

Abraham continues the theme of the lamb when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar on Mount Horeb (Mt Moriah), which was Mount Zion, the place where David bought the threshing floor from King Araunah (Ornan) the Jebusite where he was to build the temple. (2 Samuel 24:18-25, I Chron. 22:1)

For thousands of years, the most disputed threshing floor in the world has been Jerusalem's Temple Mount on Mount Moriah, known as Har HaBayit in Hebrew (Mountain of the House of the Lord).

Those of us who believe what's written in the Bible know that God Himself chose this place and sent Abraham there to sacrifice Isaac. And we're amazed at Abraham's stunning faith that *"God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering"* (Genesis 22:8), and so He did. At the end of that amazing episode in Abraham's life he built an altar to the Lord and called it Jehovah Jireh, meaning *The Lord will provide*. We often take that to mean the Lord will provide all we need, and He will, but that is not the sense in which Abraham proclaimed it. The literal translation of the Hebrew is *"On this mountain it will be provided."*

Some 1,000 years later, King David conquered Jerusalem, a Jebusite city at that time, and with it, the mountain fortress of Zion. David was proud of his victory and his success in uniting the 12 tribes of Israel into one kingdom.

In the joy of victory, David ordered a census of the people, which God judged as sin, and sent a major epidemic to punish the king's disobedience. Then the prophet Gad brought the Word of the Lord to David, telling the king to build an altar on Mount Moriah and offer sacrifices to atone for his sin and bring an end to the plague of death among the Israelites. That's when David bought the threshing floor on Mount Moriah from Araunah the Jebusite. The Jebusite offered to give King David the threshing floor, but the king insisted on paying the full price of 50 shekels of silver (2 Samuel 24:18-25).

After the atoning sacrifice, God poured out His grace and brought the plague to an end. In the same way that the Lord accepted Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, God accepted King David's sacrifice too. So this mountain is called Moriah, which means "visible from afar" or "the mountain of myrrh."

It is very significant that it was on this same mountain, Mt Moriah, which is Mt Calvary, that Jesus was crucified as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. The Passover Lamb is Jesus Christ our Savior.

### Isaiah 53:7

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.*