

There's a mountain you can see the whole Bible. **Take your son, God told Abraham, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah;** only son repeatedly mentioned, A man so loved that he gives His only son. 3 days mentioned, the wood for the sacrifice carried on his back and offer him there as an offering on the mountains which I will tell you: on Moriah. The place where the father is to sacrifice his son. Yet he doesn't. An angel stops Abraham. In the stead of his son, the father offers a ram, with thorns upon its brow, as an offering. Here is where the story begins. On Mt. Moriah, God provides a substitute to die in Isaac's place.

Fast-forward a few centuries. King David angered the Lord by commanding a census to be taken of all Israel, he was taking credit for God's works. Catastrophic casualties follow as a plague steamrolls through the land. Finally a skyscraping angel unsheathes his sword over Jerusalem. David hurries up Moriah, to a threshing floor owned by a local farmer. He buys the plot of ground and the oxen used for threshing. He builds an altar, kills the beasts, and flames fall from the sky upon the altar to consume their bodies. The plague stops, the angel sheathes his sword, Zion, Jerusalem, the holy city of dwelling of God and man, is saved. On Mt. Moriah, God provides oxen to die in order that his people might be spared.

The son of David, Solomon, built the temple of the Lord on this exact spot, this very mountain, Moriah, the temple, the house of God was erected and the massive altar set up.

Here, year after year, morning and evening, the blood of cattle, sheep, goats, and birds sacrificed, for sin means death, these beasts died in the stead of God's people. They bore the guilt of sinners. Onto their heads was transferred the sin of the congregation. Through sacrifice and blood shed, the Lord provided cleansing and forgiveness to His people.

On Mt. Moriah, God provided sacrifice after sacrifice in order that His people might be spared. But the story of Moriah was far from over. For these stories are the pre-story to why this mountain, so important. For what Abraham, David and Solomon did not do, could not do, a greater one did.

At the appointed time, Jesus wrote the last chapter of Moriah. Even Satan takes him to the top of the mountain in the temptation. Jesus will teach on this mountain, celebrated the liturgical feast there. He made this mountain His own for it is His Father's House. He overturned the tables of the money-changers depriving Gentiles a place to pray on this mount.

On Moriah, he declared, **Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it.** He spent the last week of His life there. He brought this mountain's story to its peak. The plots to kill Jesus in Bethlehem, in Nazareth, in the

countryside, would have to wait for Him to die in Jerusalem, a divine necessity to be there, where Moriah is.

This promised Seed of Abraham, the greater Isaac. The promised Son of David, the great Solomon; is the tabernacle and temple of God in the flesh, the Father offer His only Son, who is not spared, but sacrificed for you.

At His death, the veil on the Mount is torn open, the angels outside Eden sheathe their swords and welcome you back into the paradise of God. The Lamb of God, upon the altar of the cross, by Mount of Moriah, brings life from death on the great mount of Golgotha. He is the substitute, by whose sacrifice you are not just spared, but welcomed into life and family of the Father.

When Abraham offered a ram in the stead of Isaac, he called the name of this place. **The LORD will provide, as it is said to this day, in the mount of the Lord, it will be provided.** There is nothing in your life more important than that. Indeed, it was. God provided his Son, in Him, you receive everything.

You work yourself into being so consumed with your own life, that you fail to see the Lord will provide. How often you think -you can provide, you can take care of yourself, that you can use your own strength with life's temptations and challenges. How easy you give into temptations, to say what you want, do what you want, take what you want. Repent. It is either the Lord will provide or you will provide. One way means life, the other means death.

Without the Lord providing all things for you, unless you know He comes to forgive all your sins, what does it matter to be alive. In fact, that is no life.

His temptation, part of His passion and atonement for sins. He did this for you, in your place, what you cannot do or provide on your own. He comes to end the devil's lies and accusations by taking them into Himself unto death.

Satan is clever, he and demonic efforts will even use Scriptures, mixed with lies. Much of what he implies is true. According to Jesus the most dangerous thing in all the world is... false teaching. Be on your guard. But you are not alone to fight. He is doing what must be done, what love requires. He does for you what you can't. He overcomes temptations, sin and death and His works forgive your countless failures to not give into temptations and not love others as you should. He faced Satan, defeated Him for you. He has done what you fail to do and it counts as your righteousness, for you. Demons and hell cannot touch you. There is no one to condemn you, accuse you. He is yours. Yours is His kingdom, to live in His kingdom now and forever and from His mountain comes your only life and salvation. From His mountain flows His life to you in baptismal waters and a feast from His altar, it never runs out. He never stops. The Lord will provide, He has provided, He will always provide for you.