

Series: Truth for All Time

In the Mount of the LORD it Shall Be Seen

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Craighouse Christian Fellowship



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"In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen." (Genesis 22.14) God brought this to me back in 2002 as a "rhema" word. A "rhema" word is a living word, when the "logos" word in your Bible kind of jumps off the page, penetrating your heart.

The story of God testing Abraham's fear of the Lord is, hopefully, well known to you. Abraham had been sojourning in the Philistines' land many days. Abraham made an agreement with King Abimelech concerning a well he had dug. In this covenant seven lambs served as witness. Abraham called the place Beer-sheba, "well of the oath." He called there on the name of the LORD, El Olam, "the everlasting God."

After these things God commanded Abraham to take his son Isaac into the land of Moriah to offer him there for a burnt offering. Abraham rose early in the morning in obedience. On the third day he lifted up his eyes and saw the place of which God had told him afar off. He told the men who came along to wait while he and Isaac went up to worship. Abraham got everything ready. Isaac questioned his father, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham said, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." This was his faith. Abraham proceeded to lay Isaac on the altar and actually took a knife to slay his son. The angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, stopping him. "Now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." God's provision of a substitute indicates that He did not want human sacrifice. In fact, no sacrifice could ever atone fully for sin save the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 9)

Abraham called that place Jehovah-Jireh, meaning, "The LORD will see, or, provide." (Genesis 22.14) In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. Because of this demonstration of loyalty and fear, God gave His word to Abraham:

By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son: that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore, and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed My voice. (Genesis 22.16-18)

And Abraham returned to Beer-sheba and dwelt there.

Hebrews 11.17ff tells us that it was by faith that Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac, that he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall your seed be called.

Abraham reckoned that God was able to raise Isaac up, even from the dead, from whence also he received him in a figure. Abraham was justified through the righteousness of faith, by grace. Abraham had an understanding that God quickens the dead and calls those things which are not as though they were. Against hope, Abraham believed in hope, staggering not at the promise of God. He was strong in faith, giving glory to God. (Read all of Romans 4 to see faith, worship, walk, and work.)

"In the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." God's provision is seen as we worship, as we approach a holy God in full confidence of His provision. But just what is the providence of God anyway?

The word "providence" (Greek *pronoia*) means foresight or making provision beforehand. It is the idea that God looks ahead and makes provision for His goals and accomplishes what He sets out to do. Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology defines it thus: "Providence, then, is the sovereign, divine superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely predetermined end in a way that is consistent with their created nature, all to the glory and praise of God."

I was reading US News & World Report recently. In it was an article about a young man who had been able to get meth and alcohol out of his life. He said he used them to get rid of insecurity, self-loathing, pain, emptiness, and shame. He said that the drugs made him feel powerful, beautiful, and confident—at first. The drugs and alcohol were lying substitutes. This young man was on a collision course headed for destruction until he found help and hope in Jesus Christ. So where do trust, power, beauty, and confidence come from in truth?

In the mount of the LORD it shall be provided. With Abraham, God provided Himself a sacrifice. Before the foundation of the world, the Godhead determined in what we call the covenant of redemption that the Father would send Jesus Christ into the world to live and die and resurrect and ascend into glory so that a people for God's glory would be saved from their sins, saved to eternal life.

It was on a mountain that Abraham offered up Isaac. It was on a mountain that Moses received the Law and Covenant of Sinai. It was on a mountain that Moses received the revelation of God's goodness and mercy. It was on a mountain that Elijah also received a revelation of God's goodness. It was on the Mount of Transfiguration that Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John and His majesty was revealed.

It was outside the gates of Jerusalem that Jesus died on Calvary. The cry of God's heart is the cry of the covenant:

I will be your God and you will be My people.

Jesus, a Divine Person with a Divine Nature, took on human nature in order to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. He obeyed perfectly, personally,

and perpetually. He did this voluntarily, making Himself the offering in our place. We call it “substitutionary atonement.”

God built mercy into His system of justice. God sent Jesus to fulfill both sides of the covenant. Jesus is both Lord and Servant. As Lord, He claims God’s people for God. As servant, He claims God for the people. God is just and the justifier of the one who believes in Jesus. (Romans 3.26)

It is God’s desire to dwell and make His abode in the hearts of His people. **“Here I will dwell; for I have desired it.” (Psalm 132.14)** In the OT God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22.3), but in the new covenant, God inhabits His people (Eph. 2.19-22).

We may be like that young man, in pain, feeling insecure, hating ourselves deep down where we live, full of shame, empty. We want beauty, power, and confidence. We want to be loved without a lie. The devil offers us these things his way, but his way does not profit us. The devil’s way leads to destruction, and today especially, we live in a culture of death.

God sent His only Son, Jesus, to bear witness to the truth. Jesus was offered up to God in payment for sin. Jesus suffered in His body, mind, and soul. According to medical experts, He was smitten with a rod upon the cheek. Wounds, contusions, were produced by a sharp instrument. Romans used the cat-of-nine tails to scourge criminals, i.e., nine pieces of leather to which were attached sharp ivory or metal balls with protruding nails. The whip tore out pieces of flesh, lacerations produced by a tearing instrument. Plucking His beard, beating Him with their fists, mutilated Jesus.

The crown of thorns pressed upon the head of Jesus would have caused penetrating wounds. All this did not satisfy the bloodlust of the people. The stake lay upon His lacerated, bleeding back. Jesus stumbled and fell as He carried the cross. He received more bruises.

They pierced His hands and His feet. Jesus suffered perforated wounds and incised wounds. A soldier’s spear pierced His side after He had died and out came blood and water.

Jesus’ heart is believed to have burst. But know this: God provided Himself the Sacrifice. It was once-for-all time, never needing to be repeated. Jesus’ shed blood is what makes atonement for those for whom Jesus died. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

Blood cries out for justice whenever innocent blood is spilled. Jesus came in grace and truth. His Blood cries out for mercy on the judgment seat over the law. It cries out in victory over devils, disease, and death. Through the Blood believers receive forgiveness of sin, redemption, cleansing of all unrighteousness, justification, and propitiation so as to be saved from the wrath of God. Alienation from God is overcome by peace with God, making the way for access to enter the holiest boldly, divine healing, victory over Satan, sanctification, purging of the conscience from dead works to serve the living God, and eternal glory.

The only way to truly have beauty, power, and confidence in our lives is through faith in Jesus Christ. The only way to get rid of pain, emptiness, self-loathing, insecurity, and shame is through faith in Jesus Christ, receiving Him. John 1:12ff

In the mount of the Lord, His provision is seen. There is only one way to ascend into the hill of the Lord, only one way to have clean hands and a pure heart and stand before God undefiled. (Ps 24) It is to see the provision of Jesus Christ on the mount of the Lord, to hear the cry of God's heart:

I will be your God and you will be My people.

It's not enough to have words on a page, even if they are the word of God and truth. Those words must be applied to our lives. The Holy Spirit does that work; He is the Life Giver, the Life Producer. As we yield to the Lord we appropriate the atoning work of Jesus personally and individually. We become willing to lay ourselves on the altar of God.

May we run to the Mercy Seat and ask God to grant us repentance. We will know beauty as we come to know the beauties of holiness. We will know power as we come to know the Holy Spirit indwelling us. We will come to live confidently as we come to understand that we have bold access to the Holy of Holies through the Blood of Christ and that we are forgiven, loved, and accepted in the Beloved.

In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. Amen.

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Isaac questioned his father,

"Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham said, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering."

Genesis 22



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