

Jerusalem: The Epicenter of Global Redemption and Controversy

Joel Richardson

“Then Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided’” (Genesis 22:14).

In the ultimate sense, there is no such thing as coincidence when it comes to God’s purposes. When Abraham climbed a Mount Moriah to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, he believed he was obeying a painful but direct command from God (Genesis 22:1–2). What he may not have fully grasped was this: the very place where he bound Isaac to the altar would become the most crucial and controversial piece of property in all of human history.

1. Mount Moriah Is Where God Provided a Substitute

God told Abraham:

“Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac... and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains” (Genesis 22:2).

Abraham obeyed. He walked for three days. He carried the wood. He bound his beloved son. But when Isaac asked, “Where is the lamb?” Abraham replied with a prophecy:

“God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering” (Genesis 22:8).

And that is precisely what God did. At the last moment, a ram caught in a thicket appeared and substituted for Isaac. Abraham then named this place, “The Lord Will Provide”:

“Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, ‘In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.’” (Genesis 22:14)

But that prophetic name was not just about that day. It pointed forward to the Messiah.

2. Mount Moriah Becomes Jerusalem

We are told explicitly where this event happened:

“Go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there on one of the mountains...” (Genesis 22:2).

Hundreds of years later, in 2 Chronicles 3:1, we read:

“Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah...”

The very mountain where Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac became the site of the Temple in Jerusalem. It’s the place where David purchased the threshing floor (2 Samuel 24:24), and where God’s glory would dwell in the Temple (1 Kings 8:10–11).

It was never just a hill. It was always destined to be the place of God’s throne on earth.

3. Mount Moriah Was the Heart of Sacrifice and Worship

Atop this mount:

- Abraham offered his son Isaac.
- Solomon built the Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1).
- Tens of thousands of lambs were sacrificed over centuries.
- The blood of atonement flowed at Passover and Yom Kippur.
- The high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year with blood (Leviticus 16).

Every sacrifice pointed back to Abraham’s ram, *but forward to the Lamb of God.*

4. Mount Moriah Was in View of Calvary

While the exact location of the crucifixion—Golgotha—is debated, all reliable traditions place it just outside the northern walls of Jerusalem, on or near the same ridge as the Temple Mount. It is within the general region of Mount Moriah.

It is profoundly fitting that:

- Jesus carried the wood as Isaac once did (John 19:17).
- The Father gave His only Son, whom He loved (John 3:16).
- There was no ram this time—Jesus Himself was the Lamb.

At Mount Moriah, God provided a substitute. But even more stunning is the fact that at Mount Calvary, God Himself became the substitute.



God Will Provide The Lamb

5. Mount Moriah Will Be the Throne of the Messiah

The prophets declare that in the last days, the Lord will reign from Jerusalem, from His holy mountain:

“In the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established... And the law will go out from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2–3).

The mountain where Isaac was offered...

The mountain where the Temple stood...

The mountain where the Lamb was slain...

It will be the mountain where the King will reign.

Again, none of this is metaphor. This is the Gospel, rooted in literal geography and very real shed blood.

6. Why Satan Wants Mount Moriah

If Mount Moriah is the center of redemption, it is also the center of Satan’s rage.

- The Throne of God’s King: God promised that David’s throne would endure forever in Jerusalem. Satan’s ambition has always been to usurp God’s throne. Isaiah 14:13 records his boast: *“I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.”* This reveals his desire to establish his rule in Zion, the very mountain where God promised to set His King (Psalm 2:6). His counterfeit claim explains why Jerusalem is the epicenter of spiritual warfare—it is the city God chose for His Son, and therefore the city Satan covets for himself.
- The Center of the Nations’ Rage: Psalm 2 declares that the nations rage against the Lord and His Anointed in Zion. This is why Jerusalem is the epicenter of global controversy. The nations are stirred up by the enemy to invade and seize the city where Jesus will reign (Zechariah 12–14).
- The Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan seeks to enthrone his man of lawlessness in God’s temple (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4). He knows that if he can claim Mount Moriah, he symbolically dethrones God. It is not surprising that Muslims today are expecting their final ruler—the Mahdi—to rule the world from the Temple Mount.
- Today, standing on the very place where God revealed His covenant, where Abraham bound Isaac, and where Solomon built the Temple, sits the Muslim Shrine and Mosque called the Dome of the Rock. Inscribed across its walls are the words of the Quran: “God has no son.” The very mount where the Father offered His beloved Son

is now crowned with a monument denying His Son. This is no accident. It is the adversary's counterfeit testimony, seeking to silence the witness of the blood that was shed just outside those walls and the son who will rule the World from this very spot.

- The Battlefield of Promises: If Satan can prevent Israel's restoration to her land and Jerusalem's role as capital of Messiah's kingdom, he could claim that God's promises have failed. This is why the spiritual battle over this one mountain shapes world politics.

7. The Epicenter of Global Conflict

The controversy over Jerusalem is not primarily about borders, politics, or religion. It is about the cosmic struggle between God and Satan over the seat of God's government on earth. This is why *the prophet Zechariah declared*:

“Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around... And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it” (Zechariah 12:2–3).

From Abraham to David, from the Cross to the Second Coming, Mount Moriah is not merely sacred land. It is contested land. The nations rage there because Satan rages there. But their rage is futile, for the Lord has set His King on Zion (Psalm 2:6).

8. Not a Coincidence—A Divine Pattern

Mount Moriah is where:

- Substitutionary atonement was first predicted (Genesis 22).
- The altar of Israel was established (1 Chronicles 21–22).
- The Temple stood, and God's presence dwelt (2 Chronicles 3).
- The Lamb of God was slain for the sins of the world (John 1:29).
- The Messiah will return to reign (Zechariah 14:4, 9).

From Isaac to Jesus to the Kingdom to come, Moriah is not just a location—it is the epicenter of redemption and the flashpoint of the final global conflict. There the lamb was provided once, for all. But God's provision will be fully realized when the Lamb who was slain returns as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and as King over all the earth.



The Lord Will Provide the Lamb