

**BECAUSE YOU HAVE HEARD AND OBEYED MY VOICE
(Genesis 3; 22)**

Take 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. So Abraham rose early in the morning . . . and then began the trip to the place of which YAHWEH had told him vs. 2, 3.

Two thousand years earlier, in the same region, Yahweh had promised Adam and Eve a savior to atone for their sin as He directed His words to the serpent: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **He will bruise and tread your head underfoot**, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel (Genesis 3:15).

And YAHWEH said to Abraham, Because, you have heard and obeyed My voice in blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants like the stars and **in your SEED shall all the nations of the earth be blessed and [by Him] bless themselves vs. 17**. We see here that the promise given to Adam and Eve many years earlier was now confirmed to Abraham from whom the SEED was to come. It is a beautiful thing to realize that in the place where Eve was tempted and had fallen into temptation, there in the same place, YAHWEH had Abraham to sacrifice his son, as a foreshadow of what was to be fulfilled in His Son, two thousand years later. This then confirms without a doubt that the Garden of Eden was in Jerusalem, the city of our great King! The city for which YAHSHUA cried, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother fowl gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused! Behold your house is forsaken and desolate, for I declare to you, you will not see Me again until you say, Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord (Matt. 23:37-39)!

The truth is that YAHWEH chose to create the world and plant a garden in the center of the world, where Jerusalem stands. It was outside the mountain ranges of Jerusalem that YAHWEH chose to send His Son to shed His atoning blood to save the world; it was to the place where sin had left its root that in the plenitude of time, YAHWEH sent His Son where Adam and Eve had marked with the sin of disobedience; there He erased it with His blood- His atoning blood. The hidden truth behind YAHWEH choosing Jerusalem to fulfill His promise of redemption lies heavily in its past and its future events, in its location and in its reasons. Not only it gives us meaning as we link it to the sovereignty and wisdom of our YAHWEH, but it establishes the facts of History as being YAHWEH'S History; it connects the Old to the New Covenant and confirms the everlasting existence of YAHWEH and His plan.

The Garden of Eden could have never been in Babylon, as many thought it to be. To begin with, YAHWEH'S plan of salvation was to be where Adam and Eve had sinned and where sin had had its origin. YAHWEH didn't call Abraham to Babylon from whom He would fulfill His promise of salvation; Babylon does not fit into the picture of redemption's fulfillment just because of a river that flows there; the river that went out from the Garden which divided and became four heads was not the Euphrates river; the Euphrates river was but one of the heads that formed

from the source that went out from the Garden; Babylon does not have a future promised restoration, but one of destruction. To believe that Babylon was the place for the Garden of Eden is to disjoint YAHWEH'S plan of salvation and His final restoration.

In Genesis 2:10-14 we read, Now a river went out of Eden to water the Garden; and from it divided and became four heads: (1) Pishon, it is the one flowing around the whole land of Havilah where gold is; (2) Gihon, it is the one surrounding all the land of Cush; (3) is Hiddakel, (Tigris) the one going East of Assyria and the (4) is Euphrates.

The Prophet Zachariah prophecies that there will be a future earthquake causing the mount of Olives to split and the water to flow out of **Jerusalem** into the Mediterranean Sea and into the dead Sea (Zachariah 14:4). Evidences prove the underground river that feeds into the four rivers to be found in Jerusalem. In Ezekiel 5:5 we read, Thus says the Lord, **this is Jerusalem, in the center of the nations I have set her and countries are around about her**; Jerusalem is the city of the great King; YAHWEH chose it for His dwelling place, and for His holy Mountain (Daniel 9:16; Isaiah 66:20). Psalms 46:4 tells us that there is a river whose channels gladden the city of ELOHIM, the Holy tabernacles of the Most High.

“The Garden of Eden was located in the East; Israel is considered the land of the East; it is referred as to as the near East; Eastern Mediterranean includes Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula; the Middle East referred to the region between the Near East and Far East”. YAHWEH planted a garden toward the East in Eden and there He put the man whom He had formed (Genesis 2:8).

YAHWEH told Abraham to leave his country, his relatives and his father's house to move to the land which He was going to show him (Genesis 12:1) – a Land where He would fulfill His promise of salvation; a Land He had chosen to be His Land; a Land where He had formed man and a Land from where He would save him; a Land where all begun and where all will have its end and a new beginning. From there the sin of Adam and Eve had brought condemnation to mankind, but from there the blood of YAHWEH'S Son would bring forgiveness and eternal salvation for the world. YAHWEH had chosen those mountains to test Abraham with the life of his son Isaac, and two thousand years later He would offer the world (Isaac) the true substitute, YAHSHUA, His only Son, whom He loved; He would witness the suffering of His Son in His cry Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? (**My YAHWEH, My YAHWEH, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME**)? His Son's cry would be heard throughout the world to eternity from these mountains until every promise of salvation would be fulfilled.

When YAHWEH tested Abraham on that mountain range, it was a very significant test; one of space in time, location and consequence. Had Abraham failed to obey Him, he would not have been the chosen one from whom YAHWEH would have had sent His Son. But as it happened, with Abraham having passed the test YAHWEH confirmed His promise with these words: Because you heard and obeyed My voice, and did not denied Me your son, I will bless you and your **Seed (YAHSHUA)** will possess the gate of His enemies, and in your **Seed (YAHSHUA)** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed (Genesis 22:17, 18). This was not a mere mountain, but a

mountain of great significance to YAHWEH'S plan of salvation. From this mountain, His Son would bless and change the course of all who would accept His gift; and from this mountain YAHWEH'S Son would destroy the curse of sin found in its origin and in its roots and there forgiveness and salvation would be poured through YAHSHUA'S blood. This is to me the most significant reason to believe that the Garden of Eden was in Jerusalem. Do you ever wonder why man has not being able to know with certainty the place of YAHSHUA'S crucifixion? As Moses said, The secret things belong to YAHWEH, our ELOHIM, but to us only the things revealed (Deut. 29:29a).

Abraham never perceived the meaning of what was happening as he walked those three days to the mountain YAHWEH was to show him; he had no idea of what was happening when he laid his son on the wood and almost killed him as an offering to YAHWEH; The truth of the matter is that when he laid the wood on the shoulders of Isaac on his way to sacrifice him, he was representing YAHWEH the Father, his son Isaac, representing YAHSHUA in his submission to his father. Isaac also was representing mankind under the condemnation of eternal death and the ram, was representing YAHSHUA'S substitutional sacrifice for man. This important meeting took place where two thousand years later reality would take the place of the shadow represented by Abraham, Isaac and the ram. Heavens witnessed and rejoiced with the significance of the beautiful act performed by Abraham and his son. Where Adam and Eve had sinned and had left a curse of condemnation, there YAHWEH confirmed his promise to take place in the future and established it in Isaac through the obedience of Abraham until two thousand years later, when the shadow became reality and the curse of sin was washed away from the Garden.

If Adam and Eve could have had witnessed such act and have had understood its meaning and again have had witnessed the suffering of the Son of YAHWEH at the cross two thousand years later, they would have shed tears of sorrow knowing that they had caused it. The faithfulness of YAHWEH to His promise of salvation is so visible in this, that no one can deny even if he tried, for when Adam and Eve sinned then He promised them the meaning of salvation, and two thousand years later, He confirmed in the life of Isaac; four thousand years later it was fulfilled in the life of His only Son YAHSHUA. YAHSHUA'S blood had to be shed in the place where sin had its origin; there He dismantled the power of sin residing in its root of origin against man and from there He freed man from his eternal condemnation. All the blood of bulls, goats offered there could never wash clean the origin of sin it had left in the Garden of Eden, but only the blood of YAHSHUA had the power to "Possess the gate of His enemies". The writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, But these sacrifices annually bring a fresh remembrance of sins because the blood of bulls and goats is powerless to take sins away, hence, when He [Christ] entered into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offering You have not desired, but instead You have made ready a body for Me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no delight. Then I said, Behold, here I am, coming to do Your will, O YAHWEH – what is written of Me in the volume of the Book; and in accordance with this will, we have been made holy through the offering made once for all of the body of YAHSHUA the Messiah (Hebrews 10:4 -7,10).

At the end of all things, YAHSHUA will return to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem where all begun; Jerusalem will be the only city in the world to be restored and elevated above all and from there the world will be governed in righteousness and justice. "And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern [Dead] Sea and half to them to the western [Mediterranean] Sea in summer and in winter shall be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth; in that day YAHWEH SHALL BE ONE AND His name one. All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain lifted up on its side and dwell in its place, from Benjamin's gate to the place of the first gate, to the corner gate Tower of Hananel to the king's winepress. And it shall be inhabited, for there shall be no more curse or ban of utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall dwell securely" (Zachariah 14:8-11).

So YAHWEH will close the chapter He opened thousands of years ago, to open a new one that will be for eternity. Jerusalem was YAHWEH'S focus point for His creation, and it is His focus point for restoration at the end of all things.

YAHWEH'S consistency in dealing with man throughout History makes easy for one to believe in Him and to embrace His prophetic promises, because they link the Old to the New Covenant. "Who has an ear let him be hearing"! Let him be understanding and perceiving with spiritual discernment. The Apostle Paul's prayer for Ephesians was that YAHWEH of our Master YAHSHUA, the Messiah, the Father of glory would grant them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, by having the eyes of their heart flooded with light, so that they could know and understand the hope to which He had called them and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints; and they could know what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly (Ephesians 1:17-20). There is much in the pages of the Bible that one does not see neither perceive; but when our desire is to know truth, YAHWEH will faithfully reveal His truth. YAHSHUA said to His disciples, You are My friends, if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do; I do not call you servant any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father (John 15: 14, 15). The secret of the Lord have those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its meaning (Psalm 25: 14).

I pray that your desire to know YAHWEH and your obedience to Him will lead you to deeper understanding of His Word, and that He will grant you the spiritual ability to receive His revelation of His truth.