

**~MORIAH (226)**  
**(Mo-ri'ah)**

- **The name of the rocky eminence on which Solomon built a magnificent temple to Yehowah. Earlier, his father David had purchased the site from the Jebusite Araunah or Ornan in order to erect an altar there, as this was the divinely indicated means for ending a scourge resulting from David's sin in connection with the taking of a census.**
- **And the angel kept his hand thrust out toward Jerusalem to bring it to ruin, and Yehowah began to feel regret over the calamity, and so he said to the angel that was bringing ruin among the people; It is enough! Now let your hand drop. And Yehowah's angel himself happened to be close by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (2 Samuel 24:16)**
- **And David proceeded to say to Yehowah, when he saw the angel that was striking the people down, yes, he proceeded to say; Here it is I that have sinned and it is I that have done wrong, but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, please, come upon me and upon the house of my father. (2 Samuel 24:17)**
- **Later Gad came in to David on that day and said to him; Go up, set up for Yehowah an altar on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (2 Samuel 24:18)**
- **And David began to go up in accord with the word of Gad, according to what Yehowah had commanded. (2 Samuel 24:19)**
- **When Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants passing along toward him, Araunah at once went out and bowed down to the king with his face to the earth. (2 Samuel 24:20)**
- **Then Araunah said; Why has my lord the king come to his servant? At that David said; To buy from you the threshing floor for building an altar to Yehowah, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (2 Samuel 24:21)**
- **But Araunah said to David; Let my lord the king take it and offer up what is good in his eyes. See the cattle for the burnt offering and the threshing sledge and the implements of the cattle for the**

wood. (2 Samuel 24:22)

- Everything Araunah, O king, does give to the king. And Araunah went on to say to the king; May Yehowah your God show pleasure in you. (2 Samuel 24:23)
- However, the king said to Araunah; No, but without fail I shall buy it from you for a price, and I shall not offer up to Yehowah my God burnt sacrifices without cost. Accordingly David bought the threshing floor and the cattle for fifty silver shekels. (2 Samuel 24:24)
- And David proceeded to build there an altar to Yehowah and offer up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and Yehowah began letting himself be entreated for the land, so that the scourge was halted from upon Israel. (2 Samuel 24:25)
- Moreover, the true God sent an angel to Jerusalem to bring ruin to it, and as soon as he began bringing the ruin, Yehowah saw it and began to feel regret over the calamity, and so he said to the angel that was bringing the ruin. It is enough! Now let your hand drop. And Yehowah's angel was standing close by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (1 Chronicles 21:15)
- When David raised his eyes, he got to see Yehowah's angel standing between the earth and the heavens with his drawn sword in his hand extended toward Jerusalem, and David and the older men, covered with sackcloth, at once fell down upon their faces. (1 Chronicles 21:16)
- And David proceeded to say to the true God; Was it not I that said to make a numbering of the people, and is it not I that have sinned and have unquestionably done bad? As for these sheep, what have they done? O Yehowah my God, let your hand, please, come to be upon me and my father's house, but not upon your people, for a scourge. (1 Chronicles 21:17)
- And Yehowah's angel, for his part, said to Gad to say to David that David should go up to erect an altar to Yehowah on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (1 Chronicles 21:18)
- Accordingly David went up at the word of Gad that he had spoken in the name of Yehowah. (1 Chronicles 21:19)

- Meantime, Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons with him were hiding themselves. Now Ornan had been threshing wheat. (**1 Chronicles 21:20**)
- So David came as far as Ornan. When Ornan looked and saw David, he immediately went out of the threshing floor and bowed down to David with his face to the earth. (**1 Chronicles 21:21**)
- Then David said to Ornan; Do give me the place of the threshing floor, that I may build in it an altar to Yehowah. For the money in full give it to me, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (**1 Chronicles 21:22**)
- But Ornan said to David; Take it as your own, and let my lord the king do what is good in his own eyes. See, I do give the cattle for burnt offerings and the threshing sledge for the wood and the wheat as a grain offering. The whole I do give. (**1 Chronicles 21:23**)
- However, King David said to Ornan; No, but without fail I shall make the purchase for the money in full, because I shall not carry what is yours to Yehowah to offer up burnt sacrifices without cost. (**1 Chronicles 21:24**)
- So David gave Ornan for the place gold shekels to the weight of six hundred. (**1 Chronicles 21:25**)
- Then David built there an altar to Yehowah and offered up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and he proceeded to call upon Yehowah, who now answered him with fire from the heavens upon the altar of burnt offering. (**1 Chronicles 21:26**)
- Moreover, Yehowah said the word to the angel, who accordingly returned his sword to its sheath. (**1 Chronicles 21:27**)
- At that time, when David saw that Yehowah had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he continued to sacrifice there. (**1 Chronicles 21:28**)
- Finally Solomon started to build the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem on Mount **Moriah**, where Yehowah had appeared to David his father, in the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (**2 Chronicles 3:1**)

## See Also ARAUNAH

- Ancient Jewish tradition links the temple site with the mountain in, the land of **Moriah**, where Abraham, at God's command, attempted to offer up Isaac. [see *Jewish Antiquities*, VII, 329-334, xiii, 4]
- And he went on to say; Take, please, your son, your only son whom you so love, Isaac, and make a trip to the land of **Moriah** and there offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall designate to you. (**Genesis 22:2**)
- This would make the land of **Moriah** the mountainous region around Jerusalem. It was to **the land of Moriah** that Abraham traveled from the vicinity of Beer-sheba, and on the third day, he saw that divinely designated place from a distance.
- After that he planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba and called there upon the name of Yehowah the indefinitely lasting God. (**Genesis 21:33**)
- And Abraham extended his residence as an alien in the land of the Philistines many days. (**Genesis 21:34**)
- It was first on the third day that Abraham raised his eyes and began to see the place from a distance. (**Genesis 22:4**)
- After that Abraham returned to his attendants, and they got up and went their way together to Beersheba, and Abraham continued to dwell at Beersheba. (**Genesis 22:19**)
- Some have objected to identifying Mount **Moriah** with the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, because of its distance from Beer-sheba and its lack of visibility from a distance.
- But it was **to the land of Moriah** that Abraham was to make a trip. On the first day, Abraham rose early, saddled his ass, split the wood, loaded it on the animal, and then began his trip.
- And he went on to say; Take, please, your son, your only son whom you so love, Isaac, and make a trip to the land of **Moriah** and there offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall designate to you. (**Genesis 22:2**)
- So Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his ass and

took two of his attendants with him and Isaac his son, and he split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he rose and went on the trip to the place that the true God designated to him.  
(Genesis 22:3)

- It was on the third day that Abraham raised his eyes and began to see the place **the land of Moriah** from a distance. Thus, the second day was the only full day of travel.
- As to the visibility of Mount **Moriah** and the traveling distance, **The Illustrated Bible Dictionary** notes: **However, the distance from South Philistia to Jerusalem is c. 80 kilometers, which might well have required 3 days to traverse, and in Genesis the place in question is not a mount Moriah but one of several mountains in a land of that name, and the hills on which Jerusalem stands are visible at a distance.**
- There is no need to doubt therefore that Abraham's sacrifice took place on the site of later Jerusalem, if not on the Temple hill. [Edited by J. Douglas, 1980, Vol. 2, p. 1025] Therefore, the trip of some 80 kilometers (50 miles) on foot from Beer-sheba to Mount **Moriah** would conceivably have taken more than two full days.
- Mount **Moriah** evidently was far enough from the Salem of Abraham's time that the attempted sacrifice of Isaac did not take place in full view of the city's inhabitants. There is no record that these witnessed the incident or tried to interfere.
- That the site was somewhat isolated centuries later may be deduced from the fact that in David's day there was a threshing floor on Mount **Moriah**. However, no mention is made of any buildings on the site.
- Finally Solomon started to build the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem on Mount **Moriah**, where Yehowah had appeared to David his father, in the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (2 Chronicles 3:1)
- Today the Islamic shrine known as the Dome of the Rock is situated atop Mount **Moriah**.

**See Also JERUSALEM (Later Periods)**