



Altar... our hearts

Genesis 22

“Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, *“Abraham!”*”

And he said, “Here I am.”

Then He said, *“Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”*

1 Chronicles 28

“Then King David rose to his feet and said, “Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.’ However the Lord God of Israel... said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts...”

Mount Moriah

Rather than God initiating the call to worship and to build an altar, David determines to do it on his own

Instead of God's presence moving where God sent His people, through David's decision, it becomes God's people needing to move to where God's presence would be known to dwell (in the temple)

And the intimate encounters of sacrifice and worship will become layered with manmade levels of distance, even with repentant hearts

And a thousand years go by...

The worship of God is even more layered with manmade physical and spiritual distance

The people sacrifice, but sin persists

The people repent, but it is not transforming

As with Abraham, God sees the need for a sacrifice

As with David, God sees the desire of repentent hearts

Mount Moriah

Becomes the place that Jesus turns the tables

Becomes the place where manmade religion rejects its opportunity to worship God

Becomes the place from which a higher, holier place can now be seen

The hill called Calvary or Golgotha

Matthew 29

“And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified... And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull... they crucified Him...

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.”

Mount Moriah

The veil of the temple is torn

The manmade attempt to separate the presence of
a holy God from His unholy people is destroyed

As a Father sacrifices His Son

As the cries of repentant hearts find hope

As the altar of the Cross flows with the blood
of the ultimate offering

So where is Mount Moriah today?

The foundation of Solomon's temple still stands

But a different worship is required in the temple today

It is a worship rooted in the lineage of Abraham's human attempt to fulfill God's promise

It is a worship not of a God who sacrifices, but of a god who demands and a people who slaughter

John 4

“The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship...”

Jesus said to her... “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 14

“ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you...

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him...”

And where is the altar?

Where is the Presence of God?

How do we find Him?

How do we worship Him?

“The Altar and the Door”

Careless, I am reckless

I'm a wrong-way-travelin'-slowly-unraveling shell of a man

Burnt out, I'm so numb now

That the fire's just an ember way down in the corner of my
cold, cold heart

Lord, this time I'll make it right, here at the altar I lay my life

Your kingdom come but my will was done, my heart is broken

As I cry, like so many times before

But my eyes are dry before I leave the floor, oh Lord

I try but this time, Jesus, how can I be sure I will not lose my
follow through

Between the altar and the door...”

There will always be a place

Here is a place you can come for help or to plead

But don't get caught up in a manmade tradition

Walking down an aisle won't save or sanctify you...

It's the transaction of laying down the sacrifice of you
in exchange for the sacrifice of Jesus that makes
you a place where God dwells

And wherever you are becomes a place to worship

And the altar becomes...

The transaction of yielding your sins to the forgiving grace of Jesus Christ and the receiving Him as Lord and Savior allows the blood He shed on the Cross to be applied to us

Our hearts
bellies
spirit

We become the location of worship once we know
Jesus Christ

And the altar becomes...

And just as the fire on the altar of Abraham and David consumed the sacrifices offered there, God intends that the Holy Spirit which comes to us will consume us as well

Humble people who know they are lost without Him

Repentant people who know He is their Savior

Redeemed people who know He is their Hope

All worshipping Him in spirit and in truth