

**WHO INCITED KING DAVID TO TAKE  
THE CENSUS OF ISRAEL?**

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**MT MORIAH, THE THRESHING  
FLOOR AND CALVARY CONNECTION**

**PRESENTED BY**

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# WHY WAS KING DAVID COMPELLED TO TAKE A CENSUS?

The biblical account of David's census in 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 is among the most enigmatic portions of the Bible.

One of the first questions that arises when reading the text is who "moved" King David to number Israel?

Second Samuel 24:1 says that YHWH did, while 1 Chronicles 21:1 says Satan did.

2 Samuel 24:1 Now again the anger of YHWH burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”

(1 Chronicles 21:1-8). 21 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, “Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are.”

## **WHY DID A CENSUS INVOKE FEAR IN THE NATION?**

The military leaders aversion to the enterprise seems to reflect the reality of the times ñ a census invariably fostered great apprehension among the populace. At that time in Israel only the military was capable of carrying out such an undertaking, and since those counted would be men of military age, a census was thought of as a possible prelude to war, which it often was. And war, besides bringing the sword, often brought destruction and sieges that caused famine and pestilence.

This was often enough the case that there was a common notion throughout the ancient Near East that census-taking led to plagues.

When a census was not for war it generally was employed for taxing purposes or to draft long-term labourer's for governmental projects, disrupting domestic life and causing widespread hardship. There are records of rebellions that were triggered by census taking. Tribal loyalties, competing with the central government, were still strong in Israel and a census might stoke them. So although Joab knew this census was not for the purpose of war or taxes, he felt it wrong to aggravate the public for trivial reasons.

## **AGAIN THE ANGER OF YHWH** **WAS KINDLED.....**

And again the anger of YHWH was kindled against Israel,.... It had been kindled, and appeared before in sending three years of famine among them for Saul's treatment of the Gibeonites. There is no specific reason given that YHWH's anger had been kindled again; however many scholars believe it was still related to the Gibeonites and King David's extermination of Saul's children. You can read the entire story in Samuel and determine your own conclusion.

2 Samuel 21:1; During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of YHWH. YHWH said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death."

# WHY DID YHWH ALLOW SATAN TO TEMPT KING DAVID?

This text tells us what we have already learned from the Book of Job: YHWH uses Satan in His plan to achieve His sovereign purposes and to fulfil His plan.

But it takes us one step further, teaching that YHWH not only employs Satan to bring about the blessing of His saints, but that YHWH also uses Satan, his servant to bring about divine discipline.

Apparently Satan knew YHWH was angry with Israel and requested permission to tempt King David to number Israel. YHWH granted him permission. However there was a higher purpose to be achieved by YHWH and we will see this in the conclusion of this teaching.

Satan usually tempts us where we are weak. It appears that King David was fearful that Israel was not strong enough. Why should Satan tempt us where we may not fail? Satan picked the temptation and David gave in. He counted Israel and Judah and YHWH responded with discipline.

Had Israel and Judah become proud because of their great population? The census resulted from fear which is a lack of trust in YHWH.

We must also remember that Satan is not completely free to do as he pleases. He must operate within the boundaries given by YHWH. Scripture does not explain why YHWH gives Satan any freedom.

But we know that YHWH uses him 1) to discipline some of us when it is needed (1 Timothy 1:20),

2) to prevent us from sinning when that is the only way (2 Cor. 12:7),

3) to cause us to grow (example of Job),

and 4) to motivate us to not sin again (Heb. 12:10).

# Satan as the Adversary of Israel

(1 Chronicles 21:1-8). 21 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, “Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are.”

3 But Joab replied, “May YHWH multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord’s subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?”

4 The king’s word, however, overruled Joab; so Joab left and went throughout Israel and then came back to Jerusalem.

# DAVID TAKES A CENSUS OF ISRAEL



5 Joab reported the number of the fighting men to David: In all Israel there were one million one hundred thousand men who could handle a sword, including four hundred and seventy thousand in Judah.

6 But Joab did not include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, because the king's command was repulsive to him.

7 This command was also evil in the sight of YHWH; so he punished Israel.

8 Then David said to YHWH, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

# WHY WAS THE CENSUS DANGEROUS?

Go, number Israel and Judah: This was dangerous because of a principle stated in Exodus 30:11-17

11 Then YHWH said to Moshe, 12 “When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay YHWH a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. 13 Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to YHWH.

## Atonement Money

14 All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to YHWH. 15 The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to YHWH to atone for your lives. 16 Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before YHWH, making atonement for your lives.”

# **ISRAEL BELONGS TO YHWH**

The principle of Exodus 30:12 speaks to YHWH's ownership of His people. In the thinking of these ancient cultures, a man only had the right to count or number what belonged to him. Israel didn't belong to David; Israel belonged to YHWH. It was up to YHWH to command a counting, and if David counted he should only do it at YHWH's command and receiving ransom money to "atone" for the counting.



This was not to be a free will offering. It was not to be a matter of 'proportionate giving' in which each gives in accordance to how much they had prospered. This particular offering was to be a half-shekel contribution from everyone, rich or poor. It would be used to construct and maintain the Tabernacle.

This 'tent of meeting' would be a reminder to all that they had been redeemed. It would tell the story of their Redeemer and His perfect work of redemption.

It was their Redeemer who gave the command that the tabernacle should be built. And everything was to be built according to the pattern He had given. It was all to speak of Him. The sacrifices and furnishings would tell how every soul can find redemption from sin and become part of the holy people of YHWH through faith in the Redeemer of Israel.

This offering brings forth an acknowledgment that we all need to be right with YHWH and we need to be pure before Him. We all need the story of the Tabernacle. Only what is illustrated in the Tabernacle of YHWH's redemptive work on our behalf can ransom us. This of course speaks of the full atonement provided in Yahshuas' death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

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THE word "Ransom" is used in respect to the purchase-price of humanity and also in connection with the deliverance of mankind after having been purchased by that price. As an illustration of the two uses of the word, we give two texts of Scripture:

1 "Who gave himself a Ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (I Tim. 2:6.)

2 "I will Ransom them from the power of the grave."  
(Hos. 13:14.)

# RANSOM AND REDEEM

In these texts we see the two uses of the word "Ransom." The word Ransom in the Scriptures is often used in a similar manner to the word "redeem."

The two words, indeed, have the thought of purchase connected with them. To redeem is to buy back; to ransom, as used in I Tim. 2:6, is to buy back, by giving a price to correspond.

## **YAHSHUA GAVE HIMSELF AS A RANSOM FOR US**

The Bible sometimes speaks of the death of our Messiyah Yahshua as the giving of the price. The Scripture says that HE gave himself to be a Ransom-price. (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45.)

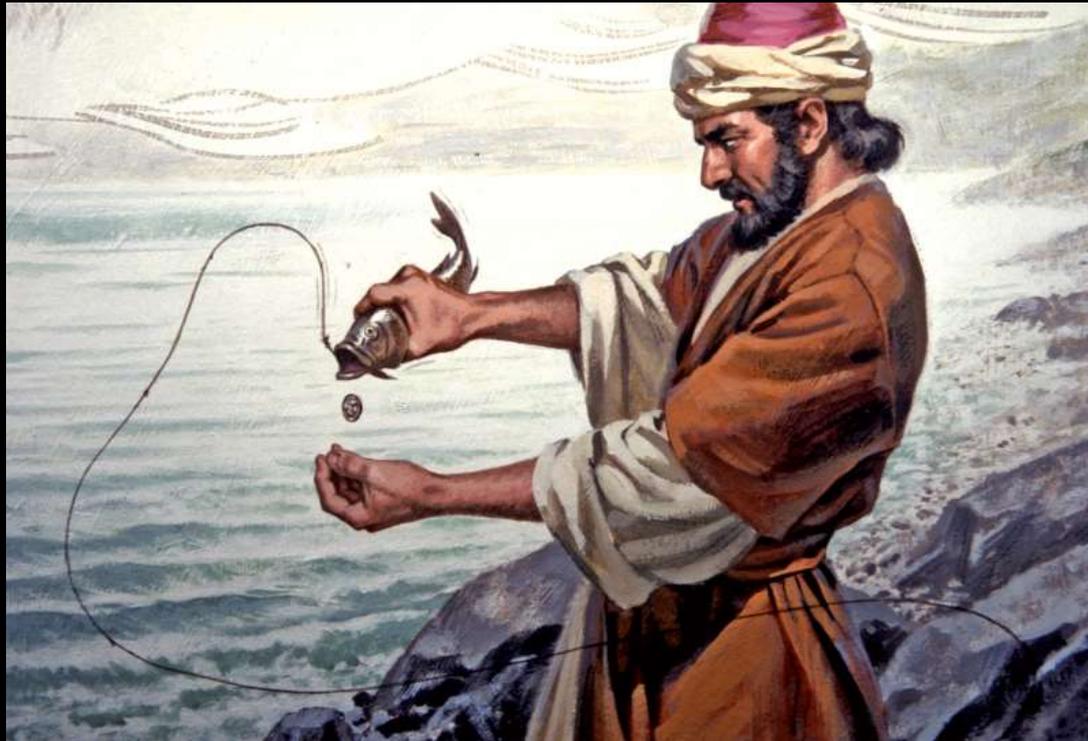
He gave himself at Jordan; he completed the giving of himself at Calvary. In his death he laid down the ransom-price, the price necessary for redeeming Adam and all of his race from the sentence of death.

Peter 1:18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Messiyah Yahshua, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.



## MIRACLE OF THE COIN IS THE FISH'S MOUTH

When Yahshua and the disciples came to Capernaum they were asked to pay a tribute. The tax man asked Peter why his master didn't pay tribute. Peter was going to pay the tribute until Yahshua stopped him and asked whom the kings of the earth takes custom or tribute of their own children or of strangers. Peter answered strangers. Yahshua instructed Peter to go catch a fish in the lake. When he opened his mouth Peter found the exact amount of money needed. (Matthew 17:24-27).





Phoenicia, Tyre, Tetradrachm or "Shekel of Tyre", 101 B.C.

Obv: Head of Melqart right.

Rx: Eagle standing left on thunderbolt; club in left field.

Cf. SGI 5918.

Among those interested in tracing "Biblical" connections, coins of this type are widely believed to have been the most likely coin with which Judas was paid his "30 pieces of silver". Due to its purity of silver, this was the only coin acceptable for payment of the temple tax in Jerusalem.

The Greek word translated as piece of money is statér, a silver coin which was equivalent to one shekel, and therefore was the exact amount needed for two people (the temple tax was a half-shekel per person). Thus it was a silver coin. In fact, scholars agree, it was very likely this coin, the so-called silver shekel of Tyre:

# WHAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND THE TEMPLE TAX

## 1. Study Matthew 17:24-27. What is the temple tax?

The two drachma tax was an annual religious tax that was required of every Israelite over the age of twenty. In Exodus 30:11-16, the original intent of the tax was an offering to YHWH to atone (ransom) for one's sin. The money was then used for the Tabernacle structure.

## 2. What is the reasoning behind Yahshua's question to Simon Peter,

"From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll taxes, from their own sons or from strangers?"

By anticipating Peter's question, Yahshua demonstrated His knowledge of Peter's conversation and answer to the tax collectors. Peter had answered prematurely by saying to the tax collectors, "Yes."

Rather than confront Peter with the error of his answer, Yahshua alters the perspective of the situation: a king does not tax himself or his family but only outsiders.

Since the tax was an offering to YHWH and used for the Tabernacle, YHWH, the owner of the Tabernacle was free from the tax. And, of course, the exemption extended to His Son.



### 3. So Why did Yahshua pay the temple tax?

Despite the fact that He had the right not to pay, He paid for the sake of His ministry among the Jews. However, He wanted Peter to understand that He was exempt from the tax.

### 4. What did Peter learn from all of this?

Peter had more proof that Yahshua was the son of YHWH: a) exemption from the temple tax, and b) the four drachma coin in the fish's mouth. And since Yahshua paid the tax, Peter saw that ministry might require the relinquishing of certain personal rights.

### 5. What is the paradox here?

The temple tax was demanded from Yahshua to atone for His sin; He came sinless to atone for everyone else's sin

# What was the Temple Tax?

The Temple Tax, which was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Shekel per person (\$50) in today's money, was required by every Jew (age of 20+) yearly. This is Atonement money. It was to be used for the service of the Tent Meeting or place of worship.



Now this atonement money did not PAY for their atonement anymore than animal sacrifices removed their sins. This was symbolic, and meant as a teaching tool and constant reminder of the atonement to come, the real cost of it, and how each, whether rich or poor is going to owe the same debt to YHWH.

This Temple Tax was known as Ransom Money, and was a reminder to the Jews of YHWH's provision of Redemption, and of their obligation under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant. Yahshua died on the Cross for us; "He gave Himself a ransom for all" 1 Timothy 2:6

# JOAB OBJECTS TO THE CENSUS

2 Samuel 24:3 Joab said to the king, "Now may YHWH your ELOHIM add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?"

Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel.

It wasn't only Joab who tried to tell David not to do this - the captains of the army also warned David not to count the soldiers in Israel. But David did so anyway.

Why does my lord the king desire this thing? Joab wasn't afraid to speak to David when he thought the king was wrong. With the best interest of both David and Israel in mind, Joab tactfully asked David to reconsider this foolish desire to count the nation.



Joab also hints at the motive behind the counting - pride in David. The thing that David desired was the increase of the nation, and he perhaps wanted to measure the size of his army to know if he had enough force to conquer a neighbouring nation. "He did it out of curiosity and creature-confidence." (Trapp)

So late in his reign, David was tempted to take some of the glory in himself. He looked at how Israel had grown and prospered during his reign - it was remarkable indeed. The count was a way to take credit to himself. "The spirit of vain glory in numbers had taken possession of the people and the king, and there was a tendency to trust in numbers and forget YHWH." (Morgan)



## **DAVID'S HEART CONVICTS HIM AND HE WISELY REPENTS**

2 Samuel 24:10 And YHWH was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel. 8 So David said to YHWH, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

11 Then YHWH spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says YHWH: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you."'

## **YHWH OFFERS DAVID A CHOICE OF PUNISHMENTS**

2 Samuel 24:13 So Gad came to David and said to him, “Thus says YHWH: ‘Choose for yourself, either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of YHWH—the plague in the land, with the angel of YHWH destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.’ Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me.”

14 And David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of YHWH, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.”

15 So YHWH sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.  
16 And YHWH sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it.

As he was destroying, YHWH looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of YHWH stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.





17 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of YHWH standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem.

So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

18 Therefore, the angel of YHWH commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

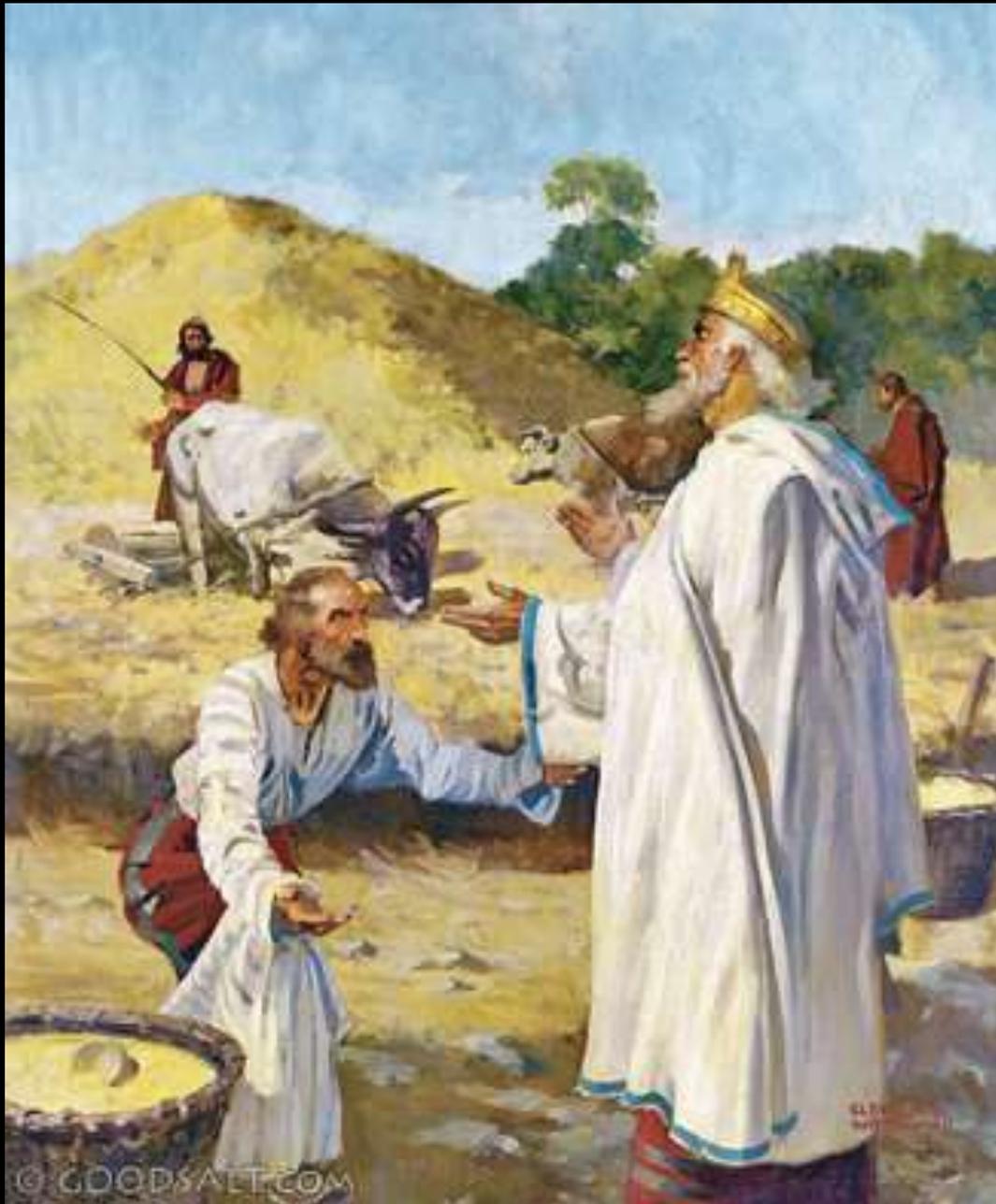
19 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of YHWH.

20 Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.

## **KING DAVID INSISTED ON PAYING** **FULL PRICE ON THE LAND**

21 So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.

22 Then David said to Ornan, “Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to YHWH. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.”



23 But Ornan said to David, “Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all.”

24 Then King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for YHWH, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing.”

25 So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place. 26 And David built there an altar to YHWH, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on YHWH; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.

27 So YHWH commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath.

28 At that time, when David saw that YHWH had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.

29 For the tabernacle of YHWH and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moshe had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.

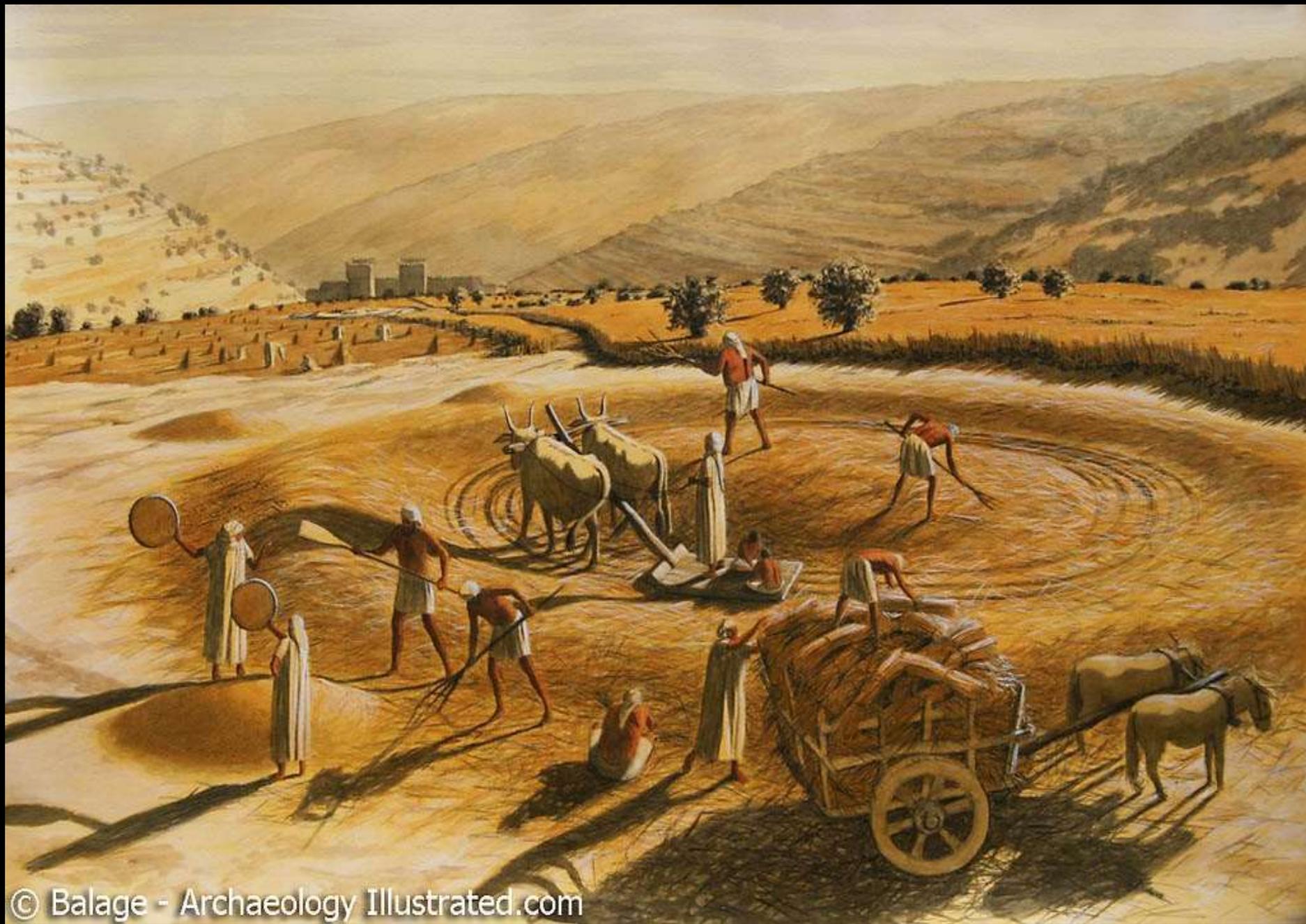
30 But David could not go before it to inquire of YHWH, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of YHWH.



# THE OFFERING

It was important that David purchase the altar and the burnt offering instead of accepting them as mere donations (2 Samuel 24:22). By purchasing these things this made the sacrifice completely David's; if he had taken them as a donation the sacrifice would actually have belonged to the original owner.

Since it was David's sacrifice that YHWH was requiring, David was obligated to make this purchase (2 Samuel 24:24). YHWH was satisfied with David's offering (2 Samuel 24:25, 1 Chronicles 21:26), and the end of the matter was complete.



# **YHWH'S LAWS AND** **COMMANDMENT'S DON'T CHANGE**

This event clearly shows that YHWH's rules do not change (Malachi 3:6). If one wilfully sins and brazenly acts against YHWH's Holy standards one must endure the prescribed consequences. The Israelites should not have been provoking YHWH to anger in the first place and they should have given the prescribed census payment as well when they did; nobody was stopping them. It was their own bad choices that caused them all that trouble. They had been clearly forewarned of the consequences for doing it wrong; YHWH could not back down on His Word when they challenged His decree. If you aren't willing to take YHWH seriously then you must withstand the consequences.

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Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant. For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD.

For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name; and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land; before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God."

# **WHAT DAVID SAYS ABOUT HIS YHWH**

Psalm 19:7-11 The law of YHWH is perfect, converting the soul;

The testimony of the YHWH is sure, making wise the simple;

The statutes of YHWH are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of YHWH is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of YHWH is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of YHWH are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

David's very life became a testimony to YHWH's Law and the mishpat that it contains.

“The mishpat of YHWH is true and righteous and In keeping His mishpat there is great reward,” and Victory!



## **WHY WAS THE THRESHING FLOOR SO PIVOTAL?**

The fact that YHWH stopped the angel of pestilence when it neared the threshing floor of Araunah (a.k.a. Ornan) at Jerusalem was a significant matter (2 Samuel 24:15-16).

This is because this was the very same location of Mount Moriah where Avraham brought Yitshack (Genesis 22:2-14), and was to be the location of the temple of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 3:1). This is also within the same geographical area of Calvary, where Yahshua was crucified.

**LETS LOOK AT ALL THE REASON'S THAT THIS AREA HAS BEEN PRE-DETERMINED BY YHWH TO BE SACROSANCT.**

# THE THRESHING FLOOR



# **MT MORIAH IS YHWH'S SPECIAL PIECE** **OF REAL ESTATE**

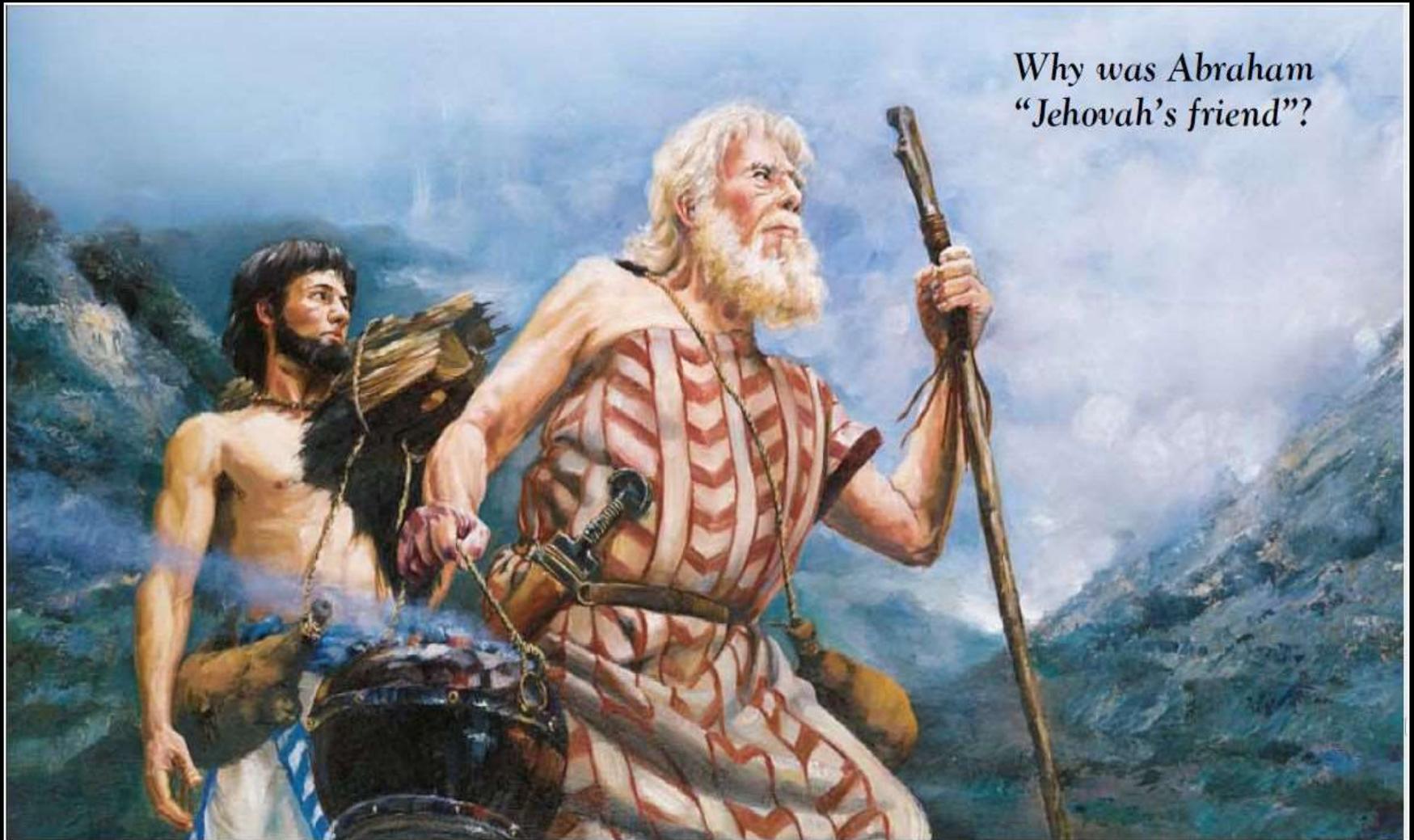
Genesis 22:3: “So Avraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Yitschak his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which YHWH had told him.”

# **YHWH LOVES OBEDIENCE IN HIS CHILDREN**

Avraham rose early for his 3 day journey. He is an example to us of quick obedience. If you delay to obey, you will either forget, or convince yourself not to do it. He knew that YHWH had spoken, and that HE could be trusted.

He put aside all his natural excuses, emotions and reasoning's. He didn't let himself dwell in the mental arena, but he brought his thoughts captive to YHWH's word.

**Genesis 22:4: “On the 3rd day, Avraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off.”**



As they approached from the South, YHWH showed him the Mount by a glory cloud.

To obey YHWH, he had to offer Isaac in a specific place. It was essential this was done at the right location, because it would lay the foundation for all future sacrifices, and especially because it was where our Messiyah Yahshua Himself would be offered up 2,000 years later.

This was a prophetic picture, that had to be acted out in the very place where Yahshua would be crucified.

Genesis 22:5:

"Worship" is the Hebrew verb *shāhā*, "bow down, prostrate oneself, worship."

Observe Avraham's confident promise: "We will worship and then we will come back to you" (22:5). While Avraham is fully prepared to offer Yitshack, he also is confident that YHWH will keep the promises that Yitshack himself will be heir to the covenant and have descendants (Genesis 17:19, 21; 21:12). Here is obedient faith in action.

## **HOW OLD WAS YITSCHAK WHEN HE WENT UP TO BE SACRIFICED?**

While it is often imagined that Isaac was a child upon their arrival at the setting of the altar, some traditional sources claim he was an adult (noting that Jews are considered adults at age 13).

The Book of Genesis does not tell the age of Isaac at the time; the Talmudic sages teach that Isaac was thirty-seven, likely based on the next biblical story, which is of Sarah's death at 127 (she was ninety when Isaac was born).

Jewish tradition suggests a date: the first of Tishri, or Rosh Hashanah. Therefore Abraham was not forcing this son; Isaac was co-operating.

## **Abraham's willingness and obedience is an example to us**

We cannot possibly fathom the love that Abraham felt for Isaac. Yet as great as his love was for his son, Abraham's love for God was even greater, for at God's request he was willing to sacrifice his soul's delight upon the altar.

In Isaac was the fulfilment of God's promises. For Isaac he had left Ur. For Isaac he lived a life of wandering. Isaac was the fruit of Abraham's self-sacrificing life.

God speaks of Isaac as Abraham's "only son" (Genesis 22:16), ignoring Ishmael, who was not the child of promise.

The promised son of Abraham leads us to the promised Son of God in whom all is fulfilled ~ the promises to Abraham, Isaac, Moses, David, Israel, and all the world.

For Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David-all these and many other righteous in Israel are counted as having earned the favour of God.

Great indeed was Abraham's love for Isaac, yet it pales when compared with God's love for His own Son. Abraham's love had grown from a close, intimate fellowship throughout the child's life, but the fellowship of the Father and the Son existed from eternity! Abraham's love was temporal, but the Father's love for Yeshua (Jesus) was eternal.

# A MAN OF 100% FAITH IN YHWH



This is confirmed by the New Testament in Hebrews 11:17-19: “By faith Avraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘That in Isaac shall your seed be called’, accounting that YHWH was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from which also he received him in a figurative sense.”



Genesis 22:7-8 “And Yitshack spoke unto Avraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

“And Abraham said, My son, YHWH will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”

Yitshack must have been terrified as his father took the rope, wound it around him, and placed his bound body upon the altar. Yet he lay without struggle. In obedience to his beloved father and to God, Isaac allowed himself to be prepared for sacrifice.

Notice verse 8 says "YHWH will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."

It doesn't say, "YHWH will provide for Himself a lamb," but that "YHWH will provide Himself a lamb" - ie. provide Himself as the lamb!

This theme is pictured all through the Old Testament, in every sacrifice - especially in the burnt offering, in the Passover Lamb, in Isaiah 53, in the New Testament, and even in the book of Revelation, where Yahshua is referred to as "a Lamb as it had been slain," bearing the scars of His crucifixion for eternity.



Genesis 22:9 And they came to the place which YHWH had told him of; and Avraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Yitshack his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Isaac willingly let his father bind him upon the altar, he willingly laid down his life.

Much like our Saviour came down from Heaven, and willingly laid down His life to save us.

John 10:17-18 Therefore does my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.



Genesis 22:11-13 “And the angel of YHWH called unto him out of heaven, and said, Avraham, Avraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, "Do not lay a hand on the lad," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear YHWH, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

And Avraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Avraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

When Avraham was sacrificing Yitshack, the ram that would take the place, which symbolized Yahshua later on, he was caught in a bush. But it wasn't just an unnamed bush.

It was a thorn bush. And what kind of a crown did they give Yahshua? A crown of thorns.



And Avraham called the name of that place Yehowah Yireh: YHWH will provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of YHWH it will be provided."

Abraham offered the ram in the stead of his son - in the place of his son, as a substitute. One day, almost 2000 years ago, Jesus died in our stead, in our place, bearing the wrath and judgment that our sins deserved, as our substitute - this is what is often referred to as the Substitutionary Atonement.

Here, I believe, Abraham got his clearest glimpse of the coming Messiah:

John 8:56-58 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

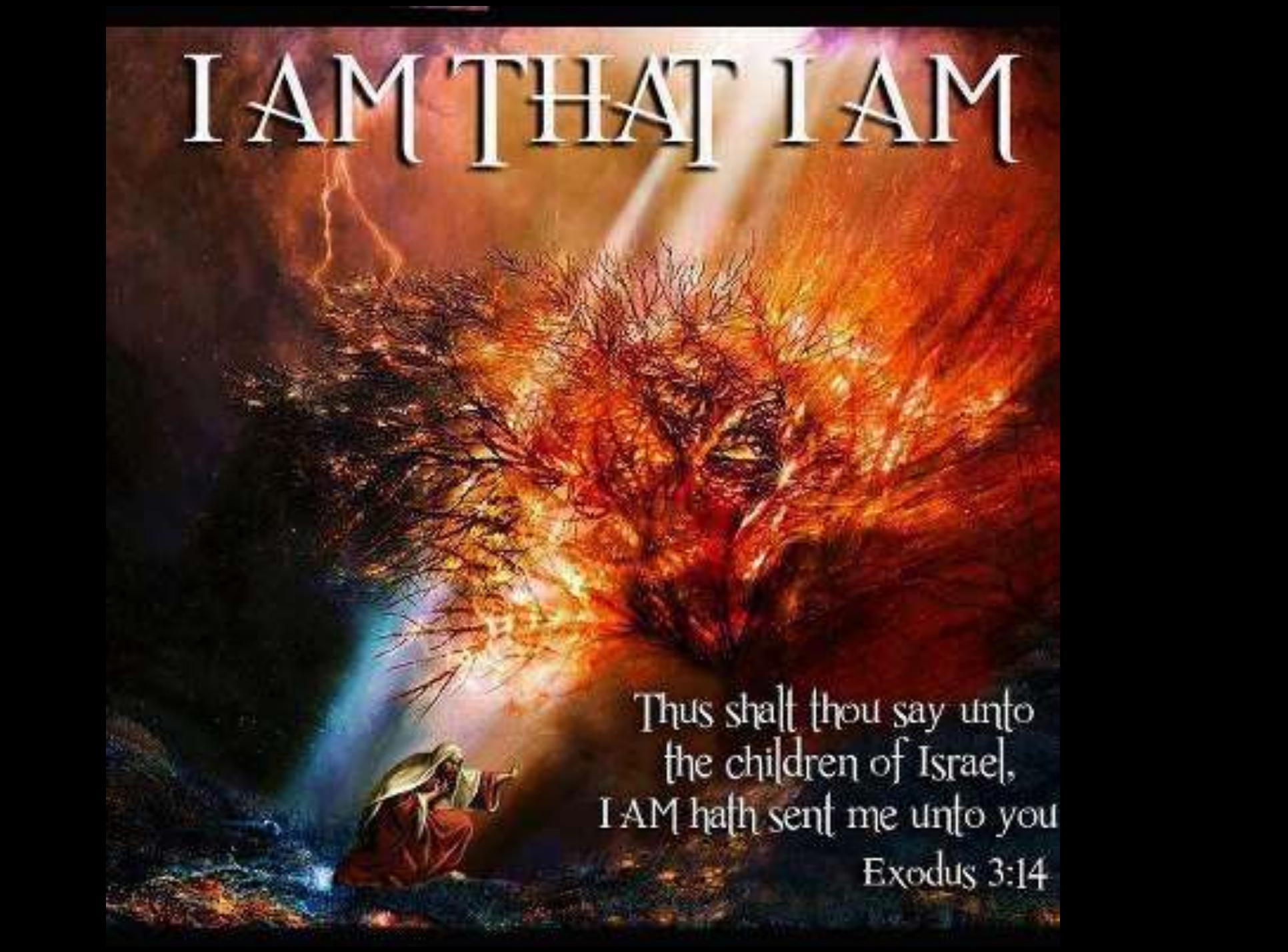
Yahshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

In the Old Testament, YHWH's name Yehowah means, "I Am that I Am." (See Exodus 3:14)

This is exactly who Yahshua claimed to be, which is why the unbelieving Jews got upset - but notice how it fulfilled the wonderful prophecy made by Abraham: "YHWH will provide Himself a lamb."

There are no contradictions in the Word of YHWH.

# I AM THAT I AM



Thus shalt thou say unto  
the children of Israel,  
I AM hath sent me unto you  
Exodus 3:14



Thus, the events on Mt. Moriah were not just a 'Picture' of Yahshua's Death 2000 years later, but also of His Resurrection.

# THE SACRIFICES

YHWH ordained the typical sacrifices of the Old Testament as foreshadowing the death of Yahshua, the all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Every sacrifice was slain on the North side of the altar of the Temple on Mount Moriah. Yahshua became the Burnt offering and the Peace-offering and died on Golgotha - the Northern end of the Mount. "He is our peace". "Having made peace by the Blood of His Cross". "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with YHWH through our Messiyah Yahshua".

There was one sacrifice - the sin-offering - which, after being slain on the North side of the altar, was taken outside the North Wall of the City and burnt.

In the Gospel by Isaiah (chapter 53) we read: "YHWH has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin ... for He shall bear their iniquities".

In 2 Corinthians 5:21 we have the precious words: "For He hath made Him to be the sin-offering, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him".