

Memorial Altars

Deut. 8:2 *"Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee."*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 26th

This is "Memorial Day" weekend. It's a time to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our country. God expects us to establish our own "Memorials".

Ex. 3:14,15 *"I AM THAT I AM:... this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial."* (Zēker: remember)

Dt 8:2 *"thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no."*

Last week we discussed how God intercepted Abram at least 7 times to invite, encourage, and direct him toward God's "Expected End". There were several times in which Abraham either initiated or responded to a meeting with God and erected an altar or "Memorial" to commemorate those meetings.

Notice the Altars (Memorials) Abram Built.

1. Altar at Sichem. Gen. 12:6,7

A. Abram's Problems

- 1) He'd come through a 5 year delay/detour. *Would God meet and/or speak with him again?*
- 2) The land was inhospitable. (Mountainous) *"Abram passed through the land unto ...Sichem, (from Shechem: a place of burdens, to load up)*
- 3) He was alone. (He'd left his family in Haran)
- 4) The Canaanites were wicked/dangerous (Gen 12:6; Dt 2:20-21)

B. God's Promise Vs 7 *"the LORD appeared ... and said 'Unto thy seed will I give this land:'"*

- 1) Why was God silent for 5 years?
- 2) What was God's immediate response when Abram was ready to really obey?
- 3) What was Abram's response to God's Promise?

C. Abram's Praise: Vs 7 *"there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him."*

"Altar" Mizbēah: from zābah: to kill, sacrifice

- 1) He didn't ask God for anything, but offered Him *"The sacrifice of Praise"* Jer. 33:11; Heb. 13:15

2. Altar at Bethel. Gen. 12:8

A. Abram's Problem. 8a *"he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel (house of God) on the west, and Hai (ruin) on the east:"*

- 1) Things (circumstances) weren't improving!
 - a) *"The Canaanite was (still) in the land"* vs 6
 - b) *"but Sarai was (still) barren."* 11:30
 - c) *"There was famine in the land"* Vs 10

B. Abram's Purpose. In his disappointment Vs 8b *"he builded an altar unto the LORD"*

C. Abram's Prayer 8c *"and called (qārā': to cry out) upon the name (shem: name, honor, authority) of the LORD."*

D. Abram's Parenthesis: Gen. 12:10-20

- 1) When God didn't change his circumstances, he began to drift toward Egypt (Vs 9) In an attempt to change his own circumstances and meet his own "needs". 10-20
- 2) After some horrible decisions and God's providential intervention, he returns to Bethel. 13:3,4

3. Altar at Hebron Genesis 13:3-18

A. Abram's Problems.

- 1) Family Conflict. 13:3-7 *"there was strife..."* **riḇ** (contention); from **rûwb** (to contend, grapple)
Pr 13:10 *"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."*
- 2) Cultural Corruption. 13:7 *"and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land... 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly"*

B. Abram's Proposal: Give Lot first choice. Vs 8-13

C. God's Renewed Promise. Genesis 13:14-17

D. Abram's Peace Gen 13:18 *"Then Abram removed... and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, (vigor) which is in Hebron, (association) and built there an altar unto the LORD."*

- 1) Our Peace is related to our "association".
 - a) Lot associated with Sodom
 - b) Abram associated with the LORD.

4. Altar (Memorial) at Moriah Gen. 22 **mōriyyâ**: from **Raa** (consider, see) and **Jah** (God)

A. Abraham's Problem: God asked him to sacrifice Isaac! Vs 2

B. God's Promise: Isaac was the promised son! Gen 17:21 *"my covenant will I establish with Isaac.."*

C. Abraham's Purpose: Trust and Obey! Vs 12

D. God's Provision. Vs 8 *"My son God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering"*

- 1) God Provided a Prophetic Picture. 11-15 *"Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."*

Conclusion:

At Abraham's altars he exchanged:

- 1) His vacillation for Dedication (Praise) at Sichem (Place of burdens).
- 2) His frustration for Supplication (Prayer) at Bethel (House of God).
- 3) His past perplexity for God's Peace at Hebron (Association).
- 4) His Personal hopes for God's Practical and Prophetic Provision At Moriah (God sees).

An altar is a place of sacrifice; where something dies, *and something lives!*



God didn't really want Isaac (to die), *But Abraham To live so he would delight in God; and live/walk by Faith.*

Pr. 23:26 *"My son give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."*
(**Rāṣâ**: delight in)

Ps 37:3-5 *"Trust in the LORD, and do good; ... Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass".*

Application:

1) What altars (sacrifice/dedication) have you made to the Lord?

(1st time the word "Worship" is used was at Moriah) Gen 22:5

2) What "sacrifice" does God expect from us? Rom 12:1

"I beseech you therefore... by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (logikos: logical) service." (Latreia: act of worship)