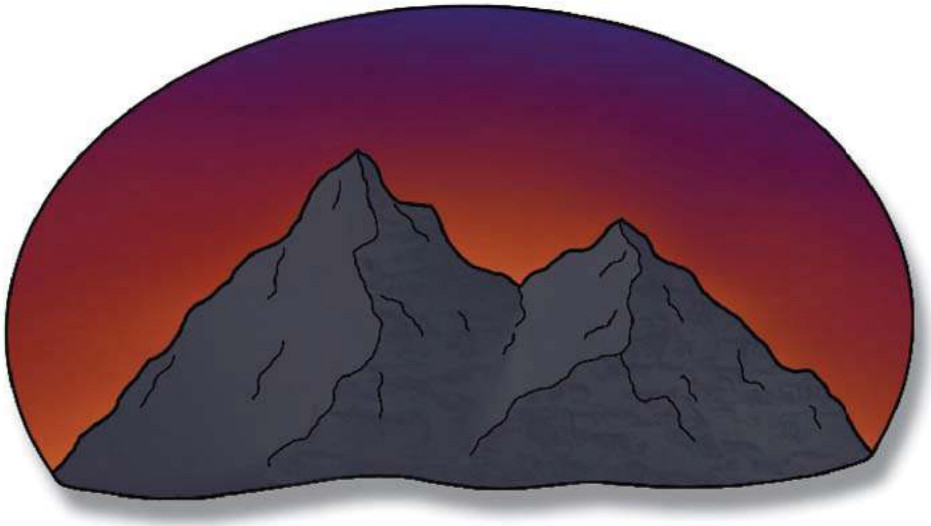
THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
LITERATURE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

TELL IT FROM THE MOUNTAINS



ADULT

THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
LITERATURE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

TELL IT FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Lessons Written By Elder Billy Moran. Editing by Elder Mitch Glasscock and Elder Jerry Reynolds - For Adults - Ages 18+

MOUNT	ARARAT	4
MOUNT	MORIAH	7
MOUNT	SINAI	9
MOUNT	CARMEL	11
MOUNT	CALVARY	13

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Lesson One: MOUNT ARARAT

Written By: Elder Billy Moran
BACKGROUND: Genesis 7:11-8:14
LESSON TEXT: Genesis 8:15 - 9:1

PREFACE

The Vacation Bible School Literature Committee chose as a topic for this set of literature "Mountains". Specifically, we chose to consider the significant spiritual experiences or events associated with five notable mountains found in scripture choosing the theme to be "**Go Tell It from the Mountains**". Elder Billy Moran shared written outlines with the committee, developed for Bible study at one of the churches he served as pastor, on a similar topic titled "Mountain Top Experiences". Brother Moran graciously gave his permission for his outlines to serve as the Study Guide for this set of lessons. As the chairperson selected to coordinate the development of the adult lessons, I asked Elder Jerry Reynolds to write the adult lesson set of lessons. In doing so, along with lesson guidelines, I shared Brother Moran's outlines with him. After in depth study of Brother Moran's outlines, Brother Reynolds recommended that the committee publish these outlines as the lessons for the adult literature. His words in the recommendation were, "Brother Moran's work needs to be published in booklet form to be preserved. It would be a shame for the work he put into these lessons to go unpreserved." Thus, the adult lessons in this literature set are presented in more of an outline format than commentary. It is the prayer of the committee that the in-depth study of these lessons will be a blessing and help to each person who uses and studies them.

Thanks to Elders Billy Moran and Jerry Reynolds for the effort and support provided.

Elder Mitchell Glasscock
Adult Literature Chairman

"THE NEW BEGINNING"

Introduction - The flood had ended and the Ark now rested on Mt. Ararat, located in what is known as modern day Turkey. Ararat was a twin peaked mountain range, rising to a height of 17,000 ft. above sea level. It was almost an equal distance from the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean Sea, the Black sea, and the Caspian Sea, *Harpers Bible Dictionary.* This is the place where Noah, his family, and all the living creatures, in whom was the breath of life, disembarked from the ark, and began to replenish the world with life.

The Original Beginning - In Genesis, Chapters One and Two, God gives to us an account of the creation of all things. There were six days in which God worked, bringing into existence the world, and everything in it. He created all by the power of His Word. He spoke and it appeared, including the vegetable kingdom, the mineral kingdom, and the animal kingdom. He also spoke the planetary system into place, including the sun to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night, proving these were twenty-four hour days.
He also created man (mankind) Male and Female, created he them. Adam was a he-male and Eve was a she-male. He joined them together, male and female, thus creating marriage; one man and one woman. He gave them dominion over everything he had created and told them to go forth and multiply, (populate the earth) and subdue the earth.

The Moral Test and The Fall of Man – Genesis, Chapter three reveals the "Moral Test" of man, and his failure, because of disobedience. This made him a sinner which brought sin and death upon himself and all of his posterity. (Romans 5:12)

Wickedness Provoked God's Wrath - Genesis 6:1-8 reveals the conduct and behavior of mankind after the fall. For this reason, "*the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth*..." (Genesis 6:7). But Genesis 6:8 reveals, "*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*" So, Noah built the ark and God sent the flood! (Hebrews 11:7)

Noah and his family were in the Ark for a total of 371 days (Genesis 7 & 8); that is one year and six days; "*and every living thing wherein is the breath of life died!*" (Genesis 7:22)

God remembered Noah - Genesis 8:1 tells that "*God remembered Noah, and every living thing … that was with him in the ark …."* God allowed the waters to "assuage" and "abate" and the ark come to rest "… *upon the mountains of Ararat.*" (Genesis 8:1-4). Also, Noah remembered God and made sacrifices, which pleased the Lord. God smelling the sweet savor said in His heart, "*I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; …, neither will I again smite any more every living thing, as I have done.*" See Genesis 8:20-9:17 for the promises and blessings of the new beginning; the command to again replenish (populate again) the earth, the permission to eat meat, institution of Capital punishment, the establishment of the rainbow covenant. All blessings of the "**New Beginning**".

Lesson Two: MOUNT MORIAH

Written By: Elder Billy Moran

BACKGROUND: 2 Chr. 3:1; Gen. 21:1-5; Heb. 11:17-19; 1 Peter 5:6-9 **LESSON TEXT: Gen. 22:1-9**

"THE TEST OF FAITH"

Introduction - There are four notable events that took place in the Land of Moriah. They are: The test of Abraham's Faith; The purchase of Oman's Thrashing floor by David; The building of the Temple by Solomon; and the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In the "Land of Moriah" there is a Mountain with several peaks, called by different names; for example; Mount Zion, Mount of Olives, Mount Calvary, and Mount Moriah.

For many centuries the capital city, in the area once known as the Land of Moriah, has been Jerusalem. The name is possibly derived from a combination of words found in the book of Genesis; one of which is Jireh - meaning, "it shall be provided". Abraham called the place where God provided a Ram to be a substitute for Isaac, (Jehovah-jireh) as it is said to this day, in the Mount of the Lord it shall be seen." (Genesis 22:14) The other word is Salem, which means "Peace". "*...Melchizedek King of Salem... was the priest of the Most High God*" and he blessed Abram (Abraham) (Genesis 14:17-20).

We know for a fact that Solomon built the Temple on Mount Moriah, in Jerusalem, in the same place where Ornan's threshing floor was located (2 Chronicles 3:1).

Abraham and The Test of His Faith - Who was Abraham? How did he become a man of such prominence? (Genesis 11:27 – 12:5 and Acts 7:1-8). How much faith did this require? (Hebrews 11:8-16).

The Promise of a Son – God made the promise of a son to a

man who was about a hundred years of age and whose wife was ninety years old, unable to bear children her entire life (Romans 4:17-21 and Genesis 21:1-8). How much Faith did that require?

The Ultimate Test of His Faith - Abraham was obedient and faithful to God and God kept all of his promises to him; God blessed his life (Genesis 24:1), made him wealthy, (Genesis 13:2) and gave him the son that was promised (Genesis 21:1-7), so all the nations of the world could be blessed (Genesis 18:18). After this miraculous birth, now God asks Abraham to sacrifice this child (Genesis 22:1-8) as a "burnt offering". Read and consider Galatians 3:13-16 along with the study of this event.

Abraham fully believed God would keep his promise, that through the Savior would come and if sacrificed, raise him from the dead to accomplish it. (Hebrews 11:17-19)

When the Lord called, " *Abraham said, Here I am*" and he took Isaac as commanded into the Land of Moriah, to a mountain, chosen by God, and bound Isaac on the Altar. But, God stayed his hand and provided a substitute. Abraham said, "*In the Mount of the Lord it shall be seen.*" No doubt prophecy! (Genesis 22:1-14).

Lesson Three: MOUNT SINAI

Written By: Elder Billy Moran
BACKGROUND: Exodus 19
LESSON TEXT: Exodus 19:1-9

"GOD ON THE MOUNTAIN"

Introduction - The Sinai Peninsula was a 260 mile long triangle. It is characterized by a mountain range of granite peaks rising up to 8,000 feet above sea level. The two most notable peaks are Sinai and Horeb, sometimes identified as the same place. Sinai also had a 15-mile wide band of sandy dunes reaching south from the Mediterranean Sea; it also had a high plateau of limestone and gravel, and dry steam beds, running 150 miles south of the sand belt.

There were also four wilderness areas on this Sinai Peninsula; the Wilderness of Shur, the Wilderness of Sin, the Wilderness of Paran, and the Wilderness if Zin. (The above Information was taken from *Harpers Bible Dictionary.*)

Notable Events - Many notable events took place in this area: one of which was the calling of Moses from the burning Bush. He was on the back side of the desert, near Mount Horeb at the time. (Exodus Chapter 3)

After crossing the Red Sea, this multitude of people, journeyed into the Wilderness of Sin where they wandered for 40 years. It was at Mount Horeb where Moses smote the Rock that provided water for Israel (Exodus 17:6)

The Law Given - In the lesson text, God reveals his plan to make these people, whom he had delivered, into a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:6). For this nation building to happen government must be established 1. regarding personal morality (Standards of right & wrong in the eyes of God), 2.

Civil law must be established to regulate society (dealings with each other), and 3. a system of worship which expresses the relationship to God and reverence for him.

Hence the laws from God to Moses were; The Moral law, The Civil Law, and The Ceremonial law.

The instructions were precise and the preparation was extensive! (Exodus 19:10-15) The Presence of God came down upon Mount Sinai, and the mountain was smoking, as a furnace of fire, and quaked greatly while the Lord was on the top of the mountain with Moses.

God first spoke audibly and the people heard his voice (Exodus 20:1).

Later, He wrote the commandments in tablets of stone and gave them to Moses (Exodus 24:12). The Decalogue was written by God, in tablets of stone to show they are eternal and immutable.

An orderly society must have laws to regulate their conduct and behavior. There must be personal responsibility and accountability for a society to live in peace.

The Law Restated - Why was the Book of Deuteronomy written? The people who were given the Law at Sinai had perished in the wilderness; and it was important that the law be repeated, and expounded to their children, before they entered into the promised land. Deuteronomy means, “Second Law”.

Lesson Four: MOUNT CARMEL

Written By: Elder Billy Moran
BACKGROUND: I Kings Chapters 17 & 18
LESSON TEXT: James 5:17-18

“BEHOLD, ELIJAH IS HERE”

Introduction - The setting for this lesson is Mount Carmel. Although, called Mount Carmel, it is more like a hilly range that stretches for about 25 miles along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, between and behind, the modern-day cities of Haifa and Hadera. The highest point of Mt. Carmel is 1791 feet above sea level and is about twenty miles long and eight miles wide. The Valley of Jezreel lies to the immediate Northeast of the mountain range. The brook Kishon is also nearby.

Elijah - Elijah was a prophet of the Lord and was sent to Ahab the king with a proclamation, As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand “*There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*” One can understand why Ahab blamed the drought on Elijah. (1 Kings 17:1 and 18:17-18)

The three years without rain or due was devastating. The streams dried up; the crops failed, and the pastures all died. This was the curse of Deuteronomy 28:23!

But the cause for the famine was that Ahab and his forefathers had built groves and places to worship Baal. As a result, Israel had departed from the worship of the God.

A point to remember - The Jewish religion, or mode of worship was both legalistic and ceremonial; and based upon the Mosaic law rather than personal faith.

The worshippers of Baal had a polytheistic view; they believed in many Gods, while Israel’s view was monotheistic,

meaning only one God.

The decline in the number worshipping God and the increase in the number worshipping Baal is clearly seen in the number of prophets: Baal's prophets 450, Israel's prophets 1. Thus, the people halted between the two opinions.

The Challenge - Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to offer a sacrifice and he would offer a sacrifice. Then each would call on their respective god/God and the one who answers by consuming the sacrifice with fire will be acknowledged to be God (1Kings 18:21-24).

Notice Elijah's care in preparation (1 Kings 18:30-36) and invitation to come near, no tricks!

Notice the prayer - Let it be known this day, that thou art God in Israel.... and that thou hast turned their heart back again. (1 Kings 18:37).

The fire fell and consumed the offering, the people fell on their faces and said "*The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.*" (1 Kings 18:38-39)

Return of Rain - The sound of the abundance of rain. (1 Kings 18:41-45)

Lesson Five: MOUNT CALVARY

Written By: Elder Billy Moran

BACKGROUND: Matthew 27:29-56; Mark 15:16-41; Luke 32-46; John 19:13-30 **- LESSON TEXT: Mark 15:16-28**

"THE MOST IMPORTANT MOUNTAIN OF ALL"

Introduction - The exact year is not known when Christ was crucified; most likely 30-33 A.D.

The exact location also is not known. It was called Golgotha, meaning the place of a skull (Matthew 27:33, Mark 15:22, John 19:17). Also, it was called Calvary (Luke 23:33). Although the Scripture does not call the location a mountain or even a hill, It was evidently an elevated place where the Romans crucified convicted criminals. It was outside the walls of Jerusalem, yet it was near-by.

We know that nearby there was a garden (John 19:41).

We also know that there were many hills in Jerusalem, called Mounts or mountains. They were a part of a chain of mountains in the land of Moriah. This is where The Temple was built, and where Abraham offer up Isaac, who was received in a figure. Calvary was most likely one of those hills located near a road, because there were passers-by who wagged their heads as they passed (Matthew 27:39).

Two locations are suggested. One of them is near what is now called the church of the Holy Sepulchera where they claim Jesus was entombed.

But a more likely place, in my opinion, is called Gordon's Calvary. It's on a hill, overlooking a roadway, and there is a garden nearby, with a tomb which has a rolling stone for the door. From some vantage points the hill resembles a skull;

but not relevant.

What, Not When nor Where - However, it's not the year in which Christ was crucified, nor the place where it took place that is important. It is what took place that is important.

It is the most awful treatment that a human being ever suffered; and yet it is the most wonderful display of love and grace ever known to man.

Jesus was accused by the Jews, and crucified by the Romans, but it was our sins that put Him on that cross. And it was **Divine Love** that held Him there until He died. The last words of Jesus were, "*Father into thy hands I comment my spirit…*" and he bowed his head and gave up the Ghost. (Luke 23:46)

In doing so Jesus paid for the Adamic sin and ransomed our souls from death. Please read Romans 5:17-19.