

The Greatest Blessing is a Life Forever!

The greatest blessing for all humanity occurred on a long, narrow, rocky plateau where green thickets and fig trees with tender new buds sparsely grew, and the air was full of pomegranate blossom fragrance. Before the promised blessing of life forever could be given, a prelude was required. It involved a man who would commit to following God's instructions (Psalm 133:3, NKJV).

The prelude happened when Abraham, the patriarch of the future Israel, was told by God to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah. Sacrificing Isaac was a test of Abraham's faith. God saw Abraham's faith and stopped the sacrifice. Isaac was not a worthy sacrifice because he had inherited sin. Instead, God provided an unblemished ram caught in a thicket by its horns (Genesis 22:1-19).

When Abraham released the ram from the thicket to sacrifice it, he saw a mirage a short distance away. In the mirage was a man, sinless from birth, nailed to a cross wearing a crown of thorns and a loin cloth. Streaks and splatters of blood from whip lashes, thorns, and nails were on his body. The man looked down at the mob and the soldiers and said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34-38). Then he raised his head and shouted, "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

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On April 3, AD33, the promised blessing of life forever was given when Jesus was crucified on that plateau. At that moment all of humanity's past, present, and future sins were paid in full. The door to God's throne was flung open for all who would receive his son's payment for their sins. By accepting Jesus, we can live with God forever instead of living in hell's death grip forever! Have you accepted the blessing? Shalom!!

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