Mercy on Moriah

Sometimes it is good to ask, “Why did the Lord include this particular account in His word? How does it fit into the overall story line of the Bible?” 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles 21 present us with a number of striking lessons, but behind the individual truths lies the amazing, larger story of the gospel.

**1. The individual lessons**

A. God may punish sin by allowing Satan *to tempt*

2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1

B. True repentance doesn’t *make excuses*

2 Samuel 24:10; 1 Chronicles 21:17

C. The necessity of judgment *grieves God*

1 Chronicles 21:9-16 (Ezekiel 33:11)

D. God Himself provides a means of *reconciliation*

1 Chronicles 21:18-27

**2. The amazing, larger story**

A. God’s mercy marked the *site of the temple*

1 Chronicles 22:1-2 (the theme of chapters 22-29)

B. The temple was built on *Mount Moriah*

2 Chronicles 3:1

C. Mount Moriah was where Abraham *offered Isaac*

Genesis 22

D. The offering of Isaac was a *type of Christ*

Hebrews 11:17-19

E. Christ was the fulfillment of *the temple*

John 2:19-22

**Application** Where do you fit into the story?

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. God sometimes uses Satan and his demons to accomplish His purposes. See Job 1-2 and 1 Kings 22. Thus, Satan’s freedom to tempt or to destroy is strictly limited by God’s will. Why is this a necessary and comforting truth for us?

3. If God does not take pleasure in punishing the wicked, what does give Him joy (Jeremiah 32:40-41; Luke 15:7)? How does this affect your view of what God is like?

4. The individual stories of the Bible fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle to tell one unified story of redemption (Luke 24:25-27, 44-47). What kind of impact does it make on you when you get a fresh glimpse of that amazing, larger story?