

MOUNTAINS & VALLEYS

Caleb asked Joshua for a mountain in the Promised Land, Josh.14:6-9, 13. God has many mountains he desires to lead His people to. Yet to get to the mountaintop we will often have to travel through the valleys first.

1. MOUNTAINS in the Scriptures represent blessing & victory. A ‘mountain-top experience’ can mean glory, victory, power, and many other blessings.

MOUNTAIN # 1- Mount Nebo, the Place of Vision

- In Deut.34:1-4 the Lord showed Moses all of the Promised Land, the inheritance of God’s people.
- Just as mountains naturally give us the best view, when we are lifted into the heavenlies during “mountain-top experiences” God gives us visions of the future & of His plans, Rev.21:10, Mic.4:1-2.

MOUNTAIN # 2- Mount Carmel, the Place of Repentance & Revival

- In 1 Kings 18:20-24, Elijah gathered the nation to Mt. Carmel to meet the God who answers by fire.
- At the altar God answered by fire, bringing a national repentance and revival, 1 Kings 18:37-40.
- When we call on God He can again send fire, repentance & revival, Lk.3:16 & Acts 1:14, 2:3, 2:37-41.

MOUNTAIN # 3- The Mount of Transfiguration, the Place of Glory

- In Matthew 17:1-9 Peter, James, & John saw Christ & the Father revealed in glory on a high mountain.
- This experience still motivated them many decades later, 2 Pet.1:16-18 & Jn.1:14.
- Christ still desires to reveal His glory to- and in- His disciples, John 17:24, Col.1:27, Rom.8:30.

MOUNTAIN # 4- Mount Zion, the Place of Worship and Authority. Mt. Zion became famous for 2 reasons:

- 1) The Ark of God: David made a tabernacle or tent on Mt Zion, where he brought the Ark of the Covenant, 1 Chron.15:1 & 28, 16:1a.
 - David led the nation in great praise & worship as he brought the Ark, 1 Chron.15:25-28.
 - David then placed the Ark in a tabernacle where the priests continued to worship the Lord, 1 Chron.15:29-16:1, 16:4-6, & 16:37. Mt Zion became the place of continual worship! The presence of God was there, Ps.76:1-2.
 - Now the most glorious worship is on spiritual Mt. Zion in heaven, Rev.14:1-3. The redeemed on Mt. Zion sing a new song before the throne, with a unique ability to worship.
 - In a similar way, if we will spiritually dwell on Mt Zion we must learn from God how to be true worshipers, Jn.4:23, abiding in holiness, Ps.24:3-4 & Ps.15:1-5.
- 2) The Throne of David: King David ruled from Zion, a place of authority- 2 Sam.5:6-7 & 9-10
 - King Jesus, the son of David, has been installed as King in Zion, Ps.2.
 - Ps.110:1-2 The Lord sends the rod (or scepter) of strength out of Zion.
 - Obadiah 21 Deliverance & authority will arise from Mt Zion in the last days, Mic.4:1-3, Is.4:5-6.
 - Rom.11:26 Christ, the Deliverer, will come from Zion as the King of kings at the 2nd Coming.

PILGRIM PRINCIPLES - Some lessons to learn from mountains are:

- 1) Gaining a mountain can transform a person- or a nation!
- 2) A mountain-top can give us a vision of God’s mighty plans, Rev.21:10. This can help guide us & strengthen us as we go through the valleys, Heb.12:2.
- 3) The mountain-tops (especially Zion) are our goal and destiny, Heb.12:22, Rev.14:1.

2. VALLEYS in the Scriptures have the opposite meaning of mountains. Valleys speak of trouble, sorrow, opposition, and other difficulties.

VALLEY # 1- The Valley of Weeping (Baca), Ps. 84:6. The Place of Sorrow.

There is a time to weep, Eccles.3:4, Luke 6:21. We all experience times of great sorrow.

However, we don't want to stay there too long: we are to pass *through* the valley of Baca in verse 6.
Vs. 5 If our heart is set on pilgrimage, if we are on a journey to meet with God- we will have to pass *through* the valley of weeping, but we should not *stay* there.

Vs. 7 They go from strength to strength... higher & higher... up to Zion. To God's dwelling place.
- How can we get up to Zion? By passing thru the valley of weeping! The best way to climb up to the mountains is often through a valley. Many roads are built through the valleys. (ex: Kennon highway)

VALLEY # 2 – The Valley of Dry Bones, Ezek.37. The Place of Spiritual Dryness, No Hope, & Defeat (v.11).

Vs. 2-4 Man does not have the answer to these difficulties, but God does!

Vs. 7 The first step to victory: new unity, in your church & in the body of Christ, Eph.4:16

Vs. 9 Second step to victory: a new move of the Spirit.

-Gain a new unity and call on the Lord- He can send the wind of His Spirit.

VALLEY # 3 – The Valley of Trouble (Achor), Joshua 7:24-26. The Place of Defeat Because of Sin.

Joshua 7:1-5 Achan had sinned, so Israel was defeated: sin brings trouble.

Heb.12:5-10 God allows troubles to come to our lives, to discipline us. To make us holy!

Hosea 2:14-15 God brings us to the Valley of Trouble: 1) to comfort us, to give us a door of hope.

2) To give us vineyards (ministry) & 3) To restore our joy like when we were first saved, Ps. 51:12.

VALLEY # 4 – The Valley of the Shadow of Death, Ps.23:4 The Place of Danger, Sickness, & perhaps Death.

We go *through* this valley with the Lord! We are not to remain in this valley.

Ps.23:4 The Lord's rod and staff protect, chasten, and guide us through the valley.

Ps. 23:5 As we follow the Lord He will bring us to a banquet, fresh anointing, and joy. A higher level!

VALLEY # 5 – The Valley of Giants (Rephaim) 1 Chron.14:9-16. The Place of Satanic Opposition.

This valley came up near Jerusalem & was a natural way for the Philistine army to come attack David.

- Eph.6:12 We fight against principalities & powers, represented by the 'giants' in the Old Testament.

- 1 Chron.14:8-9 This began when David was newly anointed as king in Zion. "New levels, new devils."

- Isaiah 17:4-6 The enemy tries to make us unfruitful in the Valley of Giants: a very small harvest.

- 1 Chron. 14:13 When the enemy comes in to try to destroy God's anointed, we must seek God.

1) We need *rhema* guidance (don't just follow old battle plans, old principles).

2) We need reinforcements (angelic help), Dan.10:12-14.

3) Then we should fight again, according to God's *rhema* directions, with His heavenly help.

- The result: David saw the power of God defeat the enemy, and named the place "Baal Perazim," which means the "Lord of the Breakthrough," 1 Chron. 14:11

PILGRIM PRINCIPLES - Some lessons to learn from valleys are:

1) A traveler spends more time in the valleys than on the mountain-tops. Do not think you are a failure, or backslidden, when you find yourself in a valley, 1 Pet.4:12-13, Ps.105:17-19, Rom.8:28.

2) Valleys are often the fastest way to get up a mountain. By faith, press on with God! James 4:10.

3) Valleys are the best place to find water, Gen.26:19, Ps.84:6. The refreshing of the Holy Spirit!

4) We are to pass *through* valleys, not stay, live, and die in them, Ps.84:6 & Ps.23:4.

5) Every valley has a way out that can lead us higher, Hos.2:15, 1 Cor.10:13. If you find out what spiritual valley you are in, then you can also learn how to get out of it!

6) The enemy hopes to destroy us in the valleys, but God will show us His strength there, 1 Kings 20:28.