

THEY MET HIM ON THE MOUNTAIN

“Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the “chief of the mountains” (the most prominent), and will be raised above the “hills” (the smaller nations); and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths. For the law will go forth from Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem”; Isaiah 2:2-3

A. MOUNTAINS DESCRIBED IN SCRIPTURE ARE BOTH LITERAL AND SYMBOLIC:

The migration of a nomad (we are earthly pilgrims) is from one location to another; Heb. 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11. Our wilderness experience is filled with “mountains” (landmarks) which give us guidance and instruction in our journey through the wilderness.

1. In biblical days, they were meeting places of “high powers” called “summits”.
2. Mountains are also symbolic of an obstacle, a difficult circumstance; Matt. 17:20; Mark 11:23
3. They are symbolic of the kingdoms of men and governments; Ezek. 34:6; Jer. 50:6; Is. 2:2-3
4. They speak of “prominence”, and were centers of a civilization’s spiritual community, where the people worshipped; John 4:20
5. Ancient civilizations gathered at specific mountains to be near their “deity” (where idolatry was practiced), near portals where spiritual manifestations were seen; Jeremiah 3:6; Ezek. 18:15
6. In scripture, activities recorded in the mountains have given God’s people:
 - a. A view from an elevated, spiritual perspective: we are seated with Christ in heavenly places; Eph. 2:6; He tells the Bride to “look from the top”; Song of Sol. 4:8
 - b. Opportunities for “divine encounters” with Christ; Mark 9:2; Revelation 21:10
7. Ascending the “high mountain” of the LORD causes us to “BEHOLD”; Isaiah 40:9-14:
 - a. Behold His Head (of wisdom and counsel); vs. 13-14
 - b. Behold His Hand (of power, authority and His arm of strength to rule); vs. 10, 12
 - c. Behold His Heart (of a Shepherd’s love); vs. 11
8. Almighty God has instructed His people to:
 - a. “Escape to the mountain”; Genesis 19:17-30
 - b. “Come up to Me on the mountain”; Exodus 24:12-18
 - c. “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord”; 1 Kings 19:11-13
 - d. “Go up to the mountain and rebuild His house”; Haggai 1:6-8; Hebrews 8:5

B. JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO MEET HIM ON THE MOUNTAIN; Matthew 28:16

Examples of how the Lord meets with us and reveals Himself to us is found in:

1. The Mountain for the Ark – Genesis 8:4; the Ark is a place of preservation in Christ; He carries us, lifts us above the destruction and brings us to a resting place in the heavenlies
2. The Mountain of Prayer – Matt. 14:23; Luke 6:12; the spiritual warfare is continual, so we pray without ceasing; 1 Thess. 5:17; we pray in secret and He rewards us openly; Matt. 6:6
3. The Mountain of the Law – Exod. 19:20; 24:12-18; Rom. 2:15; we live within the boundaries of God’s Commandments; Deut. 12:32; we do not diminish or add to His Word; Rev. 22:18
4. The Mountain of Conflict – 1 Kings 18:19-45; increasing lawlessness, adversity, idolatry and rebellion will bring the righteous into a confrontation with the wicked; Rom. 12:18; 1 Cor. 3:3

5. The Mountain of Teaching – Matt. 5:1; we need “sound doctrine” beginning with a foundation of elementary, biblical teaching (milk), then solid food (meat); 1 Cor. 3:1-2; Titus 1:9, 13
6. The Mountain of Spiritual Growth – Hosea 14:5-7; a steady progression as we go from “faith to faith”; Rom. 1:17, from “strength to strength”; Ps. 84:7 from “glory to glory”; 2 Cor. 3:18
7. The Mountain of Temptation – Matthew 4:8; temptation can be subtle or obvious; the enemy presents his “bait” and attempts to persuade us to “bypass the cross”; Matt. 16:24
8. The Mountain of Rejection – Luke 4:28-29; 17:25; Jesus was not received in His own home town, in His own household; Matt. 13:54-58; we must shake the dust off of our feet; Luke 9:5
9. The Mountain of Suffering – Luke 22:44; we suffer for the gospel’s sake and because we live in a fallen world; Acts 9:16; God allows suffering for His purposes; 1 Pet. 2:20-21; 4:12-19
10. The Mountain of Provision – Genesis 22:2-8; Ps. 78:12-29; past, present and future, our Heavenly Father supernaturally provides for every need we will ever have; Phil. 4:19
11. The Mountain of Isolation – 1 Kings 19:8-14; God sees the “cave” we hide in due to fear, depression, rejection, self-pity, feeling abandoned; however, we have an assignment! 2 Tim. 1:9
12. The Mountain of Restoration – Haggai 1:8; we can suffer the loss of the temporary or that which is familiar to us, to gain that which is eternal; God restores His people; Joel 2:23-27
13. The Mountain of Evangelism – Acts 17:17-34; disciples warn others and reveal the “unknown God” to the lost; they bring a message of “good news” and hope; Isaiah 52:7; 61:1-3
14. The Mountain of Blessing – Deut. 11:27-29 (Gerizim=blessing, Ebal=curse); Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law; Gal. 3:13; we have spiritual blessings in heavenly places; Eph. 1:3
15. The Mountain of Prophecy – Matthew 24:3; the inspired foretelling of events is based upon God’s foreknowledge; Is. 42:9; God declares the end from the beginning; Is. 46:10; Rev. 22:7,10
16. The Mountain of Worship – John 4:20-24; we worship Him in spirit and in truth; true worship is not limited to a geographical location; Malachi 1:11
17. The Mountain of Vision – Ezekiel 40:2; God gives His servants eyes to see Him (and a glimpse of the New Jerusalem); His glory illuminates the holy City; Rev. 3:18; 21:10, 23
18. The Mountain of Escape – Genesis 19:17-30; God provides a way of escape from destruction; Matt. 24:16, and in times of temptation; 1 Cor. 10:13; a place to flee; Psalm 11:1
19. The Mountain of Testing – Judges 7:3; overcomers prevail over the spirit of fear at Mt. Gilead (a rocky, dangerous place); the strong, courageous ones are not intimidated by the enemy
20. The Mountain of Commission – Matt. 28:16-20; 23:6-11; scripture does not call disciples “reverends” (nor utilize titles) to define the man-made concept of “clergy”; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20
21. The Mountain of Inheritance – Deut. 34:1; Numbers 13:17, 29; the meek (mild, humble, gentle) will inherit the Earth; Matthew 5:5; we have an incorruptible inheritance; 1 Peter 1:4
22. The Mountain of Conquest – Song of Sol. 2:8; 4:8; Col. 2:10-15; not “conquering” people, but gaining steady progress over the lust of the eyes, the flesh, the pride of life; 1 John 2:15-16
23. The Mountain of Transfiguration – Matt. 17:1, is a clear picture of the Rapture/Resurrection: Jesus is seen glorified with one who was translated (Elijah) and one who died (Moses)
24. The Mountain of Ascension – Luke 24:50-51; after 40 days of instructing His disciples, the risen Christ ascended on high and He will return in the same way He was taken up; Acts 1:9-11
25. The Mountain of the King – Heb. 12:22-23; Zion means “mountain of light”; the Lamb stands upon Mt. Zion; Rev. 14:1; it is the throne of God’s authority, the seat of His power; Isaiah 25:6