



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

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SKYVIEW BULLETIN

MOUNTAINS



This bulletin is being printed a week early so Chris and I can spend some much needed time for some R&R in the mountains.

As I was thinking about our trip and the beauty of the mountains, I could not help but wonder how mountains were used in the Bible. In researching this, I found some very interesting things that may be of interest as well as some lessons that may be helpful.

The word "mountain" or it's variances can be found many times in the Bible. The word is used both literally and symbolically as well as religiously.

Mountains have existed from creation. The Psalmist wrote: *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God"* (Psalm 90:2).

Symbolically, the mountains represent power (Jeremiah 51:25). They are also used symbolically to refer to God's strength and power (Psalm 65:6).

In much of the ancient East, the elevated regions were considered the dwelling places of the gods (cf. Isaiah 14:13). Centers of worship were established in the mountains. When Jesus had His encounter with the woman at Jacob's well (John 4), she pointed out to Him *"Our fathers worshipped on this mountain"* (John 4:20). People made sacrifices and worshipped God on mountains. God gave the ten commandments from Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-20).

The close association with God and the mountains can be seen in several references to "the mountain of God" used to refer to Horeb or Sinai (Exodus 3:1; 4:27; 18:5). Mount Zion is also mentioned as God's holy city or abode (Psalm 48:1).

Mountains are frequently personified in scripture. They are said to rejoice (Psalms 98:8), to leap (Psalm 114:4,6), to sing (Isaiah 44:23) and to praise God (Psalm 89:12). Scripture also mentions that at God's touch or presence the tremble and shake (Judges 5:5; Psalm 68:8).

Often prophecy is connected with a mountain (1 Samuel 10:5, Ezekiel 40:2) The prophets Elijah and Elisha probably lived in mountainous areas (1 Kings 1:9; 4:25).

Sanctuaries were also established on various mountains—on Bethel (Genesis 12:8), on Ebal and Gerizim (Deuteronomy 27:4-8), on Shiloh (Joshua 18:1) and of course on Jerusalem / Zion. The ark of the covenant was set on a hill at Bethel (Judges 20:18-28) and David brought it to Jerusalem (1 Samuel 7:1). (Back)

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Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

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Mountains played a very significant role in Jesus' ministry. He used them frequently in illustrating His teachings. He talked about "a city set on a hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). He spoke about faith strong enough to move mountains (Matthew 17:20).

Jesus also used the mountains as an area of retreat where He could be alone (John 6:15). He went to the mountains to pray (Matthew 14:23) and to teach His disciples privately (Matthew 5:1). The devil used a high mountain as a place in which He tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:8). The Transfiguration occurred on a high mountain (Matthew 17:1-8) and some scholars think this mountain may have been Hermon. The Ascension of Jesus back to the Father after His death and Resurrection occurred on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:3-12).

These interesting facts about mountains certainly show the place they have in biblical history. Not only do mountains impress us because of their beauty, we can also be impressed by their importance to God and how they have been used to teach great lessons.

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certainly expresses the terrible nature of God's judgment on those who do evil. No wonder the Hebrew writer made the observation that it is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of a living God (Hebrews 10:31).

The Book of Revelation makes use of mountains in several places. In 6:14-16 a cataclysm removes the mountains and causes people to hide among the rocks of the mountains, seeking either refuge or a quick death. In Revelation 8:8 something like a fiery mountain is described as being cast into the sea, destroying much of it. In Revelation 16:20 another cataclysm occurs destroying the mountains. The seven mountains of Revelation 17:9 refer to the world empire that was responsible for bring tribulation of the saints of God. John is carried by the Spirit to a high mountain from which he views the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10).

Hopefully, by seeing the importance of mountains in the Bible, you now have a greater appreciation for them. Also, hopefully, there is an awareness of the power of God, seen not only in the creation and forming of the mountains, but as mountains are used symbolically to describe the judgment of God.

Zion, which was the mount upon which the temple was built and is used as a description of the city of God. We often sing, "We're Marching To Zion," the beautiful city of God. May this be our goal...to march to this mountain city, the city of God, so that we will not one day call on the mountains to fall on us and hide us from God's wrath.

If you are not a Christian, you are going to face judgment. You are going to receive the wrath of God. You will learn that it is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. You can obey the gospel of the Son of God and escape God's judgment. The New Testament teaches that we must have faith (Hebrews 11:6), we must repent (Luke 13:3,5), we must confess Jesus as Lord (Acts 8:37), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Hopefully, my trip to the mountains will be impressive...not because of their great beauty, but because they will be a reminder of God....His creative power....His judgment on the evil....and His reward in Zion for the righteous. CEM



Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

The Life Of Christ

GOD'S

PLAN OF SALVATION

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Luke 13:3

Confess—Rom. 10:9

Be Baptized—

Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38,

1 Pet. 3:21