

THE MOUNTAINS IN THE WORD

Ephesians 1 :9-10 « He has made known to us His secret plan, which by His own will He designed beforehand in connection with the Messiah and will put into effect when the time is ripe – His plan to place everything in heaven and on earth under the Messiah’s headship. »

Recently, after walking on different mountains I wanted to study what God has to say about the importance of mountains – it turns out quite a lot!!!

This study about the mountains is not an exhaustive one, it is just a draft to make us realize the importance of the mountains in the natural and the spiritual for the coming of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth as it is in heaven.

Mountain and worship: Psalm 98:8 « Let the mountains sing together for joy »;
Psalm 148:9; Isaiah 44:23; 42:11; 49:13; 55:12

Place to receive heavenly models, place where God teaches, where He gives commands and regulations: Exodus; Hebrews 8:5; Micah 4:2

On the summit of the mountains, there are plans (for the nations, for the fulfilment of God’s will)

The models from above are given on the mountain tops: Moses at Mount Sinai received the plans of the tabernacle according to the heavenly model.

He has also received the Law, Torah = Instruction.

On Mount Ararat, Noah received commandments concerning blood and a reminder of the commandments given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden: Genesis 9: 1-7

Jesus teaches on the mountain (hills of Galilee) Matthew 5

Place of revelation, of divine encounters: Mount of the Transfiguration, Mount Sinai...

Place of new beginning: Mount Ararat (after the flood)

Place of sacrifice and victory: Mount Golgotha with Jesus’ sacrifice and Mount of Olives with His return (Zachariah 14), Mount Moriah (Isaac’s sacrifice by Abraham Genesis 22:2); Deuteronomy 33:19

Place of government: Mount Zion; Psalm 2:6; Matthew 4:8

Place where the glory of God is manifested: Mount Sinai and the Upper Room (on Mount Zion) for Shavuot outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Place where God’s people gathers together: Israel’s community at the bottom of Mount Sinai, the community of believers gathering together in Zion to celebrate the King of kings for Succoth.

The mountain represents the Kingdom of God: Daniel 2:35; 44-45 “**But the stone which had struck the statue grew into a huge mountain that filled the whole earth. [...] In the days of those kings the God of heaven will establish a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not pass into the hands of another people. It will break to pieces and consume all those kingdoms; but it, itself, will stand forever – like the stone you saw, which without human hands, separated itself from the mountain and broke to pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold.**”

Mountains and trembling, fire(melting): Exodus 19:16, 18; 20:18; Deuteronomy 4:11; 5:4,22,23; 9:10,15; 10:4; 2Kings 6:17; Job 14:18; Psalm 18:8, 46:3; 97:5; 104:32; Isaiah 5:25; 34:3;63:19; 64:2; Jeremiah 4:24; 51:25; Ezekiel 38:20; Micah 1:4; Nahum 1:5; Habakkuk 3:6; Zachariah 14:4; Revelation 8:8;

Place of withdrawal, meditation: Moses fasted on Mount Sinai, Jesus too on the Galilee hills.

The dwelling of Adonai and His people: the city of the Great King is located on a mount (natural and spiritual) Exodus 15:17; Psalm 68:17; 81:1; 85:4 (the summits belong to God); Psalm 125:2 “Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains”; and so many others Psalms
Isaiah 2:2 **“In it shall come to pass in the last days; the mountain of Adonai’s house will be established as the most important mountain. It will be regarded more highly than the other hills, and all the nations will stream there.”**; Isaiah 25:6 (a banquet!)
Isaiah 65:9 **« I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, heirs of my mountains from Judah; my chosen ones will possess them, and my servants will live there. »**;
Micah 4:1; Isaiah 18:7; Revelation 14:1; 21:10 (The New Jerusalem)

Place where altars are built: Ararat (Genesis 8:20); Mount Moriah...

Place of promises and covenant:

Israel is called « the land of mountains and valleys, which soaks up water when rain falls from the sky » (Deuteronomy 11:11)

Israel is “the land of promises”: there are specific promises on certain mountains: on Mount Ararat, God has made this **promise** “I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:21-22)

God establishes a **covenant:** Genesis 9:8-17

“And God spoke unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth [...] neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. [...] And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, **This is the sign of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.**”

The Covenant at Mount Sinai: Exodus 19:5; 20; 24; 34

Every mount has its own specificity, identity, and calling
In the natural the mountains are the reflect of mountains in the spiritual

Mountains and islands: at the end of the deluge, Ararat was like an island

Genesis 7:19 “And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high mountains that were under the whole heaven were covered.” [First time the word “mountains” is mentioned in the Bible]

Genesis 8:4-5 “And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.”

In addition, we know that the altitude of a mountain is the altitude of its summit from the sea level.

Psalms 46:3-4 « Therefore we are unafraid, even if the earth gives way, even if the mountains tumble into the depths of the sea, even if its waters rage and foam, and mountains shake at its turbulence. »

Psalms 104:6 “the waters stood above the mountains.”

Daniel 11:45 “**when he pitches the tents of his palace between the seas and the mountain of the holy Glory.**”

Revelation 6:14 “The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.” Revelation 16:20

Mountains mark out borders: Genesis 10:30 one of the first mountains mentioned in the Bible are those of the East; Joshua 15:8; 18:13; Micah 7:12

Mountain and blessings: Genesis 49:26 « The blessings of your father [speaking to Joseph] are more above those of the ancient mountains and the best products of ancient hills.”; Psalms 133:3

Place of calling and sending: Mount Horeb the Mountain of God (Exodus 3 with the burning bush)

Place of idolatry: Deuteronomy 12 :2; 2 Chronicles 21 :11 ; Isaiah 65 :7 ; Jeremiah 6 :13 ; Ezekiel 18 :6,11,15 ; 22 :9 ; Obadiah 4 :13

Mountain and pride: 2 Kings 19:23; Isaiah 37:24

Mountain and judgment: Deuteronomy 32:22 « For my anger has been fired up. It burns to the depths of Sheol, devouring the earth and its crops, kindling the very foundations [roots] of the mountains.”

Psalms 18 :8 ; Isaiah 2 :14 ; 5 :25 ; 14 :25 ; 34 :3 ; 41 :15 ; Jeremiah 6 :3, 13 ; Ezekiel 7 :7, 19 :9 ; 32 :5 ; 32 :6 ; 33 :28 ; 35 :8 ; 38 :20-21 ; 39 :2-4 ; 39 :17 ; Daniel 12 :45 ; Obadiah 10 :8 ; Joel 2 :2 ; Amos 3 :9 ; Micah 6 :1-2 (the mountains are told to listen what the Lord is saying)

Mountain and justice: « **Your justice is like the mountains of God** » Psalms 36:7

Mountains and Dan: Judges 1:34 « And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley »

Place of cries: Judges 11:37-38; Jeremiah 9:9; Mark 5:5

God of the mountains: 1 Kings 20:23, 28 « **Their God is a God of the mountains; that's why they were stronger than we were.** »

Mountains and rain: Job 24:8; Psalm 104:13

Mountains and animals: 1 Chronicles 12 :9 ; Job 40 :20 ; Psalm 50 :10-11 ; Psalm 104 :18 ; Isaiah 18 :6 (birds of prey)

Mountain and peace: Psalm 72:3 «**Mountains will bring peace for the people and the hills will bring justice.**»

Jesus the Beloved One and His Beloved One: Song of Songs 2:8 « The voice of my beloved! **Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.**»
Song of Songs 2:17; 4:8

Messenger of the Good News: Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 2:1

Mountain and war: Isaiah 13:4; Joel 2:5; Zachariah 6:1 (Mountains of bronze)
Jeremiah 46 :18 « As I live, says the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come. “

Mountain and banner: Isaiah 18:3 « **when a banner is hoisted on the mountains, look!** »

Mountain and highway: Isaiah 42:15, 49:11

Mountain and vineyard: Ararat (Genesis 9:20), Samaria (Jeremiah 31:5); Joel 4:18; Amos 9:13

Place of wandering: Jeremiah 50:6; Ezekiel 34:6; Nahum 3:18; Hebrews 11:38

Mountains of Israel: Jeremiah 6:2-3; Ezekiel 35:12; 36:1, 4, 8

Mountain and Aliyah: Ezekiel 37:22 « **I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them.**»
Ezekiel 34:13; 34:14; 38:8

Mountain and refuge: Ezekiel 7:16; Zachariah 14:5; Matthew 24:16; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:21; Revelation 6:15

Mountain and faith: 1 Corinthians 13:2

Others

Revelation 17:9 « the seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is sitting »
Psalm 65:7 « By your strength you set up the mountains. »

Mountain (mount, hill): in Hebrew « **har** » הר, in Greek “**oros**” ὄρος
2022 or 3735 either for low hills or high mountains (Strong’s Concordance)

Interesting fact: the 10 highest summits (and others) in the world are in the same geographical area (in the Himalaya Range) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas>

But to God’s point of view, it seems that the altitude is not so crucial: just have a look at Mount Zion in the natural (2533 feet, 800 metres!)

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