

GRACE GAZETTE

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Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13

OUR MOUNTAIN

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. Daniel 2:34-35

Mountains and dreams have a prominent role in the narrative of the Bible. We find various mountains and hills mentioned in the scriptures over five hundred times. Words relating to dreams appear over one hundred times. Many very important dreams and the interpretations thereof play a significant role in the unfolding of various important events, most especially in the Old Testament.

All things in the Bible are significant in their purpose but we must not conclude by that fact that all dreams which occur in the minds of men are of the same sort. However, GOD is able even in the present day to speak to HIS people through dreams, but since the completion of the Scriptures with the Revelation of JESUS CHRIST, HE primarily speaks to HIS people through that WORD which is applied by HIS SPIRIT whom HE has sent to guide HIS people into all TRUTH. Even when HE is pleased to teach HIS people in their subconscious state, HE does so by applying TRUTH which is found in JESUS CHRIST. There are no dreams and visions given to the sons of GOD by the HOLY GHOST which do not give all glory to CHRIST. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:13-14)*

The LORD gave wicked men very important cryptic dreams in the Old Testament which they could not understand. HE sent to them men who were filled with the HOLY GHOST to interpret those dreams. The LORD sent Joseph to Pharaoh and Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. Neither Joseph or Daniel was confident in his own ability to interpret these dreams but fell upon their faces before the LORD that HE might enable them to unfold the meaning of these visions. HE was faithful to do so, and they spoke of things they could not have known apart from HIS revelation nor could the dreamers have any understanding at all apart from these messengers.

In this we are reminded that the unfolding of the gospel to men is a supernatural work which only the LORD can bring to pass, which HE does by sending forth messengers in the Earth with the everlasting Gospel. We read of this in Paul's letter to the Romans. *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom 10:14-15)*

We see the same illustrated in the book of Acts as an Ethiopian Eunuch was reading Isaiah's prophecies without clear understanding. The LORD, in HIS mercy, sent a messenger to him, which was as surprising to Philip as it was to the Eunuch. *"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." (Act 8:29-31)* Philip, by the power of the HOLY GHOST, preached unto HIM, JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified. The LORD gave the Eunuch understanding and he believed and was baptized in the NAME of JESUS CHRIST.

In the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, the LORD revealed the glory which resides in the Mountain of the LORD's house. It is the same revelation which was given to Isaiah who prophesied: *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." (Isa 2:2-3)*

This Mountain is the Kingdom of GOD, which is established in the Heavens and the Earth by the ONE who is the SOVEREIGN REDEEMER of HIS elect children. HE teaches them HIS ways and they walk in HIS paths. *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* (John 10:27-28) All of the promises of GOD have their fulfillment in JESUS CHRIST. To HIM were these promises made and HE receives the benefits of them, bestowing HIS blessings upon HIS people. *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."* (Rom 8:16-17) HE will withhold nothing from HIS dear children which is of benefit to them. *"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."* (Psa 84:11) *"For all things are yours; --- the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's."* (1Cor 3:21-23)

Since JESUS CHRIST is the SPOKESMAN for GOD (see Heb. 1:1,2) and the fulness of the GODHEAD, bodily, we can rightly speak of HIM as our MOUNTAIN. HE is that *"STONE cut out without hands"* which destroyed the images of iron, clay, and brass in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Then we read, that HE *"became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."* JESUS CHRIST is the only manifestation of GOD that can be seen or known by mortal men. *"Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."* (John 1:17-18) This is even as HE testified to the Pharisees who would not believe in HIM, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."* (John 5:39)

A mountain is a lofty peak from which a man might survey the world around him. JESUS CHRIST is our MOUNTAIN from which we are able to behold the TRUTH of GOD. We believe that what HE speaks and has spoken is the absolute TRUTH which needs no human explanation, but is revealed by HIS SPIRIT. HE writes HIS TRUTH(i.e.; laws) upon the hearts of those who HE is pleased to place upon this glorious MOUNTAIN. From this PEAK we can see the Celestial City wherein dwelleth RIGHTEOUSNESS. Even as Moses was able to survey the Land of Canaan from Pisgah's majestic height. This was the very place where the LORD in HIS mercy buried the body of Moses awaiting the day of the resurrection. *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."* (Psa 116:15)

A mountain is a place of defense from the enemies which might beset us. JESUS CHRIST is our MOUNTAIN of defense, for HE is our SWORD, our SHIELD, and our HIDING PLACE. In HIM we shall not fear what man might do to us, nor tremble at the onslaughts of Satan or even our own flesh which daily seeks to overcome us. *"And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased."* (Psa 78:54) *"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."* (Isa 11:9)

A mountain is a most beautiful sight. JESUS CHRIST is altogether lovely to the awakened saints who see and believe HIM to be the RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD and the REDEEMER of sinners. *"As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."* (Song 2:3) *"Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever. Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty."* (Psa 45:2-3)

A mountain is a place from whence declarations are made. JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified is the Gospel. There is no good news for men apart from this proclamation. *"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!"* (Isa 40:9) JESUS CHRIST gave the Law to Moses upon Mount Sinai. HE demonstrated HIS superiority over the Law and the Prophets on the Mount of Transfiguration. HE prayed for HIS people on the Mount of Olives. HE laid down HIS life in their behalf upon Mount Calvary. HE is our MOUNTAIN, in whom we trust.