

### **The God of the Mountains (3)**

#### **Mount Nebo**

Some of the most memorable experiences in the life of Moses took place on mountain tops. It was while he was at Mount Horeb, which is called *“the mountain of God”*, that God revealed Himself to him and called him to deliver the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt (Ex. 3:1-15).

It was on that occasion when the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush and declared His name as, *“I Am That I Am”*, the ever existing one. Moses had to remove his shoes, as he stood on that holy ground in the presence of the eternal God. He learned something of God’s character. Joshua also was ordered to loose his shoe from off his foot, as he stood on holy ground and learned something of God’s control (Josh. 5:13-15).

These are lessons every child of God should learn. In a constantly changing world, our God is an unchanging God. His holiness demands that we live holy, separated lives unto Him. Therefore, we should not hesitate to yield ourselves to His control in every aspect of our lives and in every circumstance we face.

At Mount Sinai, the Lord instructed Moses to tell the children of Israel that they were a peculiar treasure unto the Lord, which means they were His purchased possession. They were also told that they were a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex. 19:3-6).

These things are true of every child of God today. Peter reminds us, *“but ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”* (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:9).

On the mountain they saw the God of Israel and heard the words of God (Ex. 24:10). They were given specific instruction regarding their service for the Lord and their pilgrim walk before the Lord in this world.

Reading the Word of God is a mountain top experience for us as believers today. We are lifted into the very presence of God, where we see Him in the glory and majesty of his holy person. We commune with Him, as we hear His Word speaking to us, giving clear instruction regarding our service and testimony in this world.

How wonderful to see our Lord Jesus in picture and type in the Old Testament Scriptures and to trace His pathway as He lived here below and hear His voice through the sacred writers, giving divine communication to guide and direct us, and to cheer us along the way.

How grand it must have been for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, as the Lord Jesus walked with them and opened the Scriptures to them. Their hearts burned within them as He began at Moses and all the prophets, and expounded unto them in all Scriptures the things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27-32).

The effect that these mountain top experiences in reading the Word of God and communing with Him will have upon us, is that we will be changed into the image of our Lord Jesus, from glory to glory by the Spirit of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 3:18).

Moses did not enter the land that God had promised His earthly people, Israel, but from the summit of Mount Nebo, he was granted a view of the promised land before his death. While Canaan does not represent heaven, but the rest we have in Christ, it does remind us that there is an inheritance reserved for those who are redeemed by precious blood.

The scriptures record, *“And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar”* (Deut. 34:1-3).

What a view that must have been. How gracious of God to allow His aged servant to see the land that He had promised to His earthly people. Moses had been faithful throughout the wilderness journey. Now, he has the privilege of seeing the land flowing with milk and honey. What moments they were, on the mountain top alone with his God and drinking in the blessings of all that God had in store for His earthly people.

Peter reminds us of the inheritance waiting for us in heaven, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”* (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:3-4).

In the book of the Revelation, John described some of the features of that blessed place that awaits every redeemed child of God, *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And there shall be no more curse”* (Rev. 21:4; 22:3).

The joys of heaven are too many to number and too great to try and describe in words. Paul wrote in in first letter to Corinth, *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”* (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 2:9-10).

But of all the joys and blessedness of that heavenly, happy, holy place, none can compare with seeing the Lord Jesus as He is and being with Him and like Him forever (1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 4:17; 1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 3:2; Rev. 22:4-5).

The last mountain in the experience of Moses is referred to by Peter as, *“the holy mount”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Pet. 1:18). Matthew (17:1-8), Mark (9:2-8) and Luke (9:28-36) record that occasion when the Lord Jesus took Peter, James and John up into a mountain and was transfigured before them, and they saw Him in the radiant glory of His holy person.

Moses and Elijah also appeared with Him. Luke records how they talked with the Lord Jesus about the death that He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews tells us that Moses esteemed the reproach for Christ, greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, because he looked forward to the recompense of reward (Heb. 11:26).

What a fitting reward for this faithful servant of the Lord! He was privileged to see the Lord Jesus in His majestic glory, and actually appear with Him for whom he had suffered a lifetime of reproach.

For all who own the Lord Jesus as Saviour, there is a moment coming when they shall see Him in all His glory. Just before He went to the cross to pay the price of redemption, with His own precious blood and secure the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, He prayed to His heavenly Father, *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me”* (Jn. 17:24).

*From lofty mountain top we view,  
A scene so vast and grand;  
With grateful hearts, reflect anew,  
On all that God has planned.*

*The blessings that before us lie,  
God's mercy has bestowed;  
And tinged with royal crimson dye,  
From precious blood that flowed.*

*Our future in that holy place  
Has been by Christ secured;  
When He through rich, redeeming grace,  
The wrath of God endured.*

*Gone are our sins, burst are the chains  
That held us in sin's sway;  
Now Christ is risen, all that remains,  
Awaits us in that day,*

*When He shall call us to His side,  
And His blest face we see;  
With Christ Himself shall we abide,  
Throughout eternity.*

**Bernie Payne**