



"Get up into the high mountain..." Isaiah 40:9
COME WITH US!

Shalom B'Shem Yeshua,

All About Mountains

The Lord has directed us to focus this month on mountains, as they relate to both physical and spiritual Israel. God has a lot to say about mountains in His Word. He established the mountains by His strength (Ps. 65:6), and chose to make many of His greatest revelations on mountains. This might be due to the fact that mountains, in the ancient world, were associated with deity and the accompanying solemnity and authority of such. Mountains were thought of as sacred areas. God gave Israel the Torah on a mountain—Mount Sinai. Yeshua gave the laws of the Kingdom on a mountain—Mount of Beatitudes.

Mountains were also locations that provided for better audibility and visibility, in a day in which there were no microphones, nor speaker systems, radio, nor television. Tests have been conducted on the Mount of Beatitudes which show that it was indeed possible for at least 5,000 people to hear someone speak from this Mount due to the properties of the basalt stone in this vicinity.

The Hebrew word for mountain is *har* (הר). The plural is *harim* (הרים). Our research on mountains, as seen from Genesis to Revelation, shows them to be places to serve God (Ex. 3:12), places to worship God (2 Sam. 15:32; Ezek. 20:40), places of joy (Is. 56:7), places to meet God (Is. 25:6), places where God dwells (Joel 3:17; Ps. 68:16), places of covenant (Ex. 24:12), places of revelation (Ex. 3:1-2), places where God speaks (Ex. 19:19), places of provision (Gen. 22:14), places of protection (Gen. 31:21), places of rejoicing (Is. 44:23; Is. 55:12), and places of victory (Is. 30:17).

The children of Israel made altars and offered sacrifices to God on mountains. They went "up" to God, both physically and spiritually. We see Abram on a mountain east of Bethel building an altar and calling on the name of the LORD (Gen. 12:8). We find Jacob offering a sacrifice on the mountain at Mizpah (Gen. 31:54). Sacrifices to God on mountains abound in the Holy Scriptures. The Messiah Yeshua expanded and deepened this understanding of worshipping God through sacrifices made on mountain altars when He met the Samaritan woman at a well. She questioned Him about the worship of her people on the mountain of Samaria as well as the worship of the Jews on Mount Zion (Jerusalem). The Messiah responded, *"Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father... But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (Jn. 4:2-24).

God's Holy Mountain

While we, as true worshippers, can worship Abba anywhere, at any time, there is something special about worshipping Him in His chosen city, Jerusalem. We specifically chose the unique five-star hotel, Mt. Zion, for our 2013 Mercy Mission and tour, due to its proximity to the Western Wall and its location next door to Succat Hallel, a 24/7 House of Prayer. Worship in spirit and truth occurs here daily; God meets His people at this place!

Jerusalem sits on a mountain ridge. From anywhere in Israel one must ascend (go up) to Jerusalem. Mountains are all around: "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people..." (Ps. 125:2). We sense Him surrounding us with favor when we are there (Ps. 5:12). God often calls Jerusalem "His holy mountain." For example, in Psalm 2:6 we read, "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." Our Mercy Mission groups always encounter King Yeshua on Mount Zion.

God has a great future planned for Zion: "*I will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of Hosts, the Holy Mountain*" (Zech. 8:3). Once we are in Jerusalem, even before this happens, we understand Psalm 48:1-2: "*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*"

As God directed Abraham to Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, and rewarded His faith there by sparing his son Isaac, we encourage you, as children of Abraham by faith, to consider making the journey with us in 2013. God provided for Abraham (*Yehovah Yireh*). If it is His will for you to go up to Jerusalem with us this year, He will provide for you as well. Where He guides, He provides! We are not sure how many more Mercy Missions there will be. The door is still open for tourism in Israel. Hear the Spirit calling, "*Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths*" (Is. 2:3). The following is a traditional Jewish prayer for travellers: "*May it be thy will, O Lord my God, to lead me forth in peace, and direct my steps in peace and uphold me in peace...and send a blessing on the works of my hand, and cause me to find grace, kindness, and mercy in Thine eyes and in the eyes of all who see me.*" AMEN.

Those of you who go up with us in the Spirit will also be blessed as you participate in praying and giving. Please begin to send in your special 2013 Mercy Mission love gifts. We are expecting God to do some extra special things this year!

A Land of Many Mountains

When Moses sent the twelve men, one from each tribe, to search out the Land that God was bringing them into, he encouraged them to "go up" and possess it. "*And they departed and went up into the mountains...*" (Deut. 1:24) Israel is divided east-west by a mountain range running north to south along the coast. Jerusalem sits on the top of this ridge. The numerous limestone and sandstone layers of the Israeli mountains serve as aquifers through which water flows from the west flank to the east. The following is a list of some of the most well-known mountains mentioned in the biblical text:

- Mt. Ararat: The mountain or mountains where Noah's ark came to rest
- Mt. Bashan: The territory famous for its oaks and wild cattle
- Mt. Carmel: The scene of Elijah's sacrifice; luxuriant in vegetation
- Mt. Gerizim: The sacred mountain of the Samaritans
- Mt. Gilboa: The place of Saul and Jonathan's death
- Mt. Hermon: The highest mountain in Israel (Golan Heights) at 7,336 ft.
- Mt. Horeb: The place of the burning bush and giving of the Law (Sinai)
- Mt. Moriah: The Temple Mount, site of the binding of Isaac, in Jerusalem
- Mt. Olivet: The place where Yeshua wept over Jerusalem, ascended into Heaven, and will return
- Mt. Pisgah: The point from which Moses saw the Promised Land
- Mt. Tabor: The probable site of the Transfiguration; site of Barak's camp
- Mt. Zion: The eastern hill of Jerusalem; site of David's palace and the Holy Temple

The "Mountains of Israel"

Although there are many mountains and mountain ranges in Israel (amazing considering how tiny the country is!), there is one group of mountains that are specifically labeled the "mountains of Israel" in the Holy Scriptures. These are the mountains of biblical Judea and Samaria, known today as

the "West Bank." This mountain range stands between the Coastal Plain on the west, and the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea to the east. The cities of Nablus, Jerusalem and Hebron stand on the high central spine. It has been estimated that 90% of the Bible place names are found in the "mountains of Israel."

Jeremiah prophesied that in the last days God's People Israel would establish themselves on the "mountains of Israel": "*You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria...For there shall be a day when the watchmen* (Heb: *notzrim*, also the modern Hebrew word for Christians) *will cry on Mount Ephraim, 'Arise and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God'*" (Jer. 31:5-6). Ezekiel prophesied that God would seek out and gather His scattered sheep: "*And I will bring them out from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel...*" (Ezek. 34:13).

The Lord instructed Ezekiel to prophesy the following to the "mountains of Israel": "*Because the enemy has said of you, 'Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,' therefore prophesy, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because they made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slanderers by the people'" [current "West Bank" situation]—therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the river, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around—...I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame. But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come. For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD"* (portions of Ezek. 36).

What the world calls settlements of the West Bank, God calls cities of Judea and Samaria on the "mountains of Israel." Jerusalem is one of these cities. Many of these cities are inhabited by Orthodox Jews who believe in the promises of the Jewish prophets. Even many secular Jews have a sense that this Land is their rightful inheritance. As long as the Palestinian position continues to be that Israel has no right to exist as a nation, the Jewish people will continue to build on the "mountains of Israel," their ancient and ancestral homeland. They know the truth: The Palestinians do not want just the "West Bank" or a Palestinian state. They want all of Jerusalem, and all of Israel—without Jews. Only God has the answer to this untenable situation. We know that He will be victorious. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Mountains and Idolatry

We have seen mountains in the Holy Scriptures as places of great revelation, communion with God and blessing, but there is another side to mountains: the negative side. In the same way that God's people worshipped Him on mountains, they turned from Him to worship other gods on high places, just like the heathen nations. (See Deut. 12:1-4.) Mountains became places of harlotry as Satan stole what rightfully belonged to the God of creation. In the days of King Josiah, God said to the prophet Jeremiah, "*Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot*" (Jer. 3:6). King Jehoram, who did evil in the sight of the Lord, led his people into idol worship. "*Moreover, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray.*" (2 Chron. 21:11; See also Jer. 50:6.)

Mountains as Difficulties

Mountains in the Holy Scriptures also represent problems and difficulties of all types. We read in the Tenach (First Covenant) that God removes mountains (Job 9:5), overturns mountains at the roots (Job 28:9), and mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD (Ps. 97:5). Those things that are

contrary to the will of God, lofty, prideful, or exalted are mountains that will be brought low. "For the day of the LORD of hosts shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up—and it shall be brought low—." (Is. 2:12) God says, "I will lay waste the mountains and hills..." (Is. 42:15) "Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low..." (Is. 40:4; Luke 3:5)

Our God is greater than any mountain of difficulty we might have. Yeshua, our Messiah, comes "*leaping upon the mountains; skipping upon the hills*" (Song 2:8). No problem is too big for Him to solve. We experienced this personally in February as I participated in a clinical trial using protons at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas. While you prayed, the Lord led us to pursue this form of preventative treatment, twice a day for one week. In the six to seven hours between treatments (during which I felt nothing and still feel great!), I shared the love of God with fifty people, most with cancer. Each one received a seashell message, and many also received a copy of one of my books. It was so exciting!

The week before, we had joined friends in Utah who invited us there for a week of snow skiing. Each day we awoke to see gorgeous, snow-capped mountains, and deer roaming freely on a snow-covered golf course. We skied for three days, and I had supernatural energy and no sore muscles. By the time we arrived in Houston, I was rested, refreshed, and ready to minister. The treatments were secondary; the Kingdom of God is what it's all about. To God be the glory. He has done great things.

Thank you for your loving intercession on my behalf, and for all the cards and sweet letters that you sent me. I have read them all, and am humbled by the number of people who prayed for me. When my mother died many years ago, the Lord told me that the Body of Messiah would become my mother, as He was my Father. I have seen that Word become reality. God bless all of you!

You Speak to the Mountains!

Under the New Covenant, believers can address mountains themselves. God gives us the authority to do this. The shadow is in the Tenach (See Is. 41:15.) and the fulfillment in the Gospels where Yeshua says, "*Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says'*" (Mark 11:23).

Believing with you for mountain-moving faith,

Love in Yeshua, 

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AIrTIME:	STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:
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THU 11:30 AM	FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45
SUN 1:30 PM	FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45
SAT 10:30 PM	FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61
SUN 2:30 PM	GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16
SUN 1:30 PM	IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40
THU 6:30 AM	ID	Twin Falls	KJCY TV 38
MON 11:30 AM IL	Chicago		WJYS TV 62
SUN 1:30 PM	MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25
THU 8:30 AM	NC	Goldsboro	WHFL TV 43
SUN 4:00 PM	NJ/NY	NYC/New Jersey	WMBC TV 63
THU 5:30 AM	OR	The Dalles	KRHP TV 14

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MON 11:30 PM Ch. 371 - Church Channel

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