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Mountains

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Mountains.

Topics.

- Mountains of prey.
- Mountains melted.
- Four things' mountains can refer too.
- A destroying mountain destroying the earth.
- Thick darkness, and gloom spread on the mountains.
- A great mountain shall become a plain.
- Mountains quaked.
- Every mountain moved from its place.
- A great mountain burning with fire.

MOUNTAINS OF PREY

PSALM 76:4

The following shows that mountains can be used to symbolise nations:

- **Psalm 76:4:** Glorious are you (the LORD) more majestic than the mountains of prey.

The King James Bible says:

- **Psalm 76:4:** Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.

Prey: carries the idea of something being obtained by hunting or by plunder. It is usually applied to the food of wild beasts of prey, so when the expression, "the mountains of prey," is used in Scripture it carries the idea of a place and stronghold of robbers and thieves from where they hide and venture out to plunder. The heights and rocks of the mountains furnish a safe place of retreat for robbers, and because of this they became symbols of power.

Victory over the mountains: when Israel did what was right before the LORD, He stood up to defend them, it mattered not how great or mighty the armies of a nation was that came against them, if the LORD'S anger was aroused against them, they had no hope of conquering God's people. This clearly shows that it is God who is more majestic than the mountains of prey.

In the context of these verses the mountains of prey refer to prideful men and the armies of Egypt who God drowned in the Red Sea and by extension to all other great nations and empires that came against God's people. Great victorious secular nations, great kings, and empires of the earth in the prophetic writings of Scripture are often compared to mountains, such great nations are called mountains of prey because they were generally established by war and tyranny and maintained their greatness and power by preying on their own subjects, or other inferior kingdoms.

The following verses show that nations in Scripture are often referred to as mountains and hills:

Nations that are enemies of Israel are referred to as mountains:

- **Isaiah 41:15:** Behold, I make of you (Israel) a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make hills like chaff.

Babylon is referred to as a mountain:

- **Jeremiah 51:24-25:** I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the LORD. ²⁵"Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain.

Judah is referred to as an eternal mountain and Israel as everlasting hills.

- **Habakkuk 3:6:** He (the LORD) stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains (Judah) were scattered; the everlasting hills (Israel) sank low. His were the everlasting ways.

These verses show that in prophetic writings of Scripture Israel, Judah, great victorious secular nations, great kings, and empires of the earth are often referred to as mountains.

MOUNTAINS MELTED

PSALM 97:1-5

- **Psalm 97:1-5:** The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! ² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. ³ Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. ⁴ His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. ⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The statement, "the mountains melted," figuratively carries the idea of the hearts of Israel's mighty and powerful enemies failing them, because of fear that Israel's God is going before them, and by His mighty hand delivering powerful kings and their kingdoms into Israel's hand.

FOUR THINGS MOUNTAINS CAN REFER TOO

PSALM 114:4

- **Psalm 114:4:** The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Skipped comes from the Hebrew word (*raqad*) and means to spring about. It carries the idea of dancing, jumping, skipping, and wildly leaping (generally for joy), but in verse seven of this Psalm it is written:

- **Psalm 114:7:** Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.

The words, "tremble, O earth," shows that the word skipped in this context is not symbolising skipping for joy, but the power of God to shake the earth, which means it could embrace the following four things:

- 1 The trembling and quaking, thunders, and lightning of Horeb and Sinai, (two tops of one mountain), and other surrounding hills and mountains peaks when the Omnipotent God descended from heaven and came down to the mountain to deliver the law.

- **Exodus 19:16-18:** On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.

2 To the people of Israel trembling as they stood at the foot of the mountain watching the spectacular and awesome quaking and trembling of the mountain and the thunders and lightning's.

- **Exodus 20:18:** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off.

3 David's great victories and triumphs in battle:

- **Psalms 18:6-7:** In my (David's) distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. ⁷Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry.

The mountains in this context refer to David's enemies, the Psalm pictures God riding swiftly on a cherub on the wings of the wind with devouring fire from his mouth destroying those who hate David. It is a picture of God equipping David with strength for the battle and rewarding and exalting him above those who hate him.

4 The people of Israel and Judah.

- **Habakkuk 3:6:** He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways.

Here the eternal mountains were scattered, refers to Israel being invaded by Assyria, and the everlasting hills sank low, refers to Judah being judged and punished by Babylon and taken into captivity for seventy years.

A DESTROYING MOUNTAIN DESTROYING THE EARTH

JEREMIAH 51:25

- **Jeremiah 51:25:** Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain. (Jer. 51:25).

Here the destroying mountain refers to the strong consolidated power of the empire of Babylon and the whole earth, for it destroyed much of the known world and Jerusalem, the temple of God and took the people of Israel captive for seventy-years.

THICK DARKNESS, AND GLOOM SPREAD ON THE MOUNTAINS

JOEL 2:1-2

- **Joel 2:1-2:** Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

Zion is called God's Holy Mountain, because Jerusalem God's Holy City, sits on it. Joel sees in the vision unfolding in his mind that Jerusalem is about to be attacked and warns the inhabitants of the city telling them to sound an alarm. The blackness spread upon the mountains and the, "the great and powerful people," refers to king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who God used as his servant (Jer. 25:8-9), and his fierce armies to bring His judgment of destruction on Jerusalem and the surrounding Jewish nations in the land of Judah. Babylon's armies invaded and destroyed Jerusalem, pillaged the temple of God, and took the inhabitants of Jerusalem into captivity for seventy-years. This, is why God through Joel describes the event as day of thick darkness and gloom.

OVERVIEW: the words, "a day of thick darkness and gloom spread upon the mountains," signify a mighty king and his enormous and fierce armies, about to bring destruction on the people of Judah.

A GREAT MOUNTAIN SHALL BECOME A PLAIN

ZECARIAH 4:7

- **Zechariah 4:7:** Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of, "Grace, grace to it!" (Zech. 4:7).

Here the great mountain refers to all the obstacles, negativity, and discouragement that there was against the re-building of the temple. The statement, "The great mountain will become a plain," means all obstacles to the rebuilding of the temporary temple will be removed. By extension this echoes Jesus who through his death and resurrection removed all obstacles that would hinder and prevent anyone, Jew, or Gentile from being able to become part of the eternal temple that God is at this present time building in Christ.

4

The words, "The top stone of the temple will be brought forward amid shouts of grace, grace to it," means when the final stone of the temple is laid and the temple completed there will be great rejoicing and the people will know God's grace. This of course also echoes the Lord Jesus Christ the head stone returning to the eternal spiritual global temple God is building now in Christ and all those who are part of it rejoicing greatly with loud shouts of grace, because they will know that it is only by his grace that they are part of God's eternal temple.

The overthrow of this mountain, comes after a great part of the earth, the trees, and the green grass has been burned up (Zech. 4:7) which means that after the earth has suffered massive upheaval, disasters and great troubles, violence wars and slaughter, and a great many churches worldwide have suffered horrific persecutions, and been filled with corrupt priests, prophets and shepherds of God's people who have lead many believers into abominable heresies, hypocrisy, distorted teachings and widespread dissensions.

In the context of this chapter the mountain could literally refer to:

- A meteorite falling into the sea which would not only pollute the waters and kill thousands of fish, but also cause a massive Tsunami and by it destroy all ships in its path.
- A volcanic mountain blazing with fire with its trees and woods covered in great flames of fire as they burn and its laver flows into the oceans killing fish and destroying ships and everything else in its path.

- To the destruction of much of the words global commerce and trade that is carried out by ships sailing from country to country transporting cargo needed for the world economy to prosper and the inhabitants of the earth to survive.

Should a literal mountain of fire be cast into the sea it would be an enormously breathtaking, destructive and a horrifically awful event. Likewise, when this great nation, its ruler, and its army, is brought to ruin, much of the world will stand in stunned shock, fear, and dread.

In the context of this chapter the mountain could figuratively refer to: a great nation, and its ruler with a fierce, powerful, and mighty army, especially one with weapons of mass destruction, for it would be fitting to liken such an army to a fiery mountain. The following verse shows that the sea, is used in Scripture as a symbol of nations and people:

- The angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. (Rev. 17:15).

Fire destroys everything in its path so the symbol of a fiery mountain being thrown into the sea would signify a mighty and powerful nation being utterly-destroyed and along with its destruction vast numbers of people and nations thrown into great confusion and distress and killed by calamities, disasters, and war. Though the burning mountain symbolises a great nation it would also embrace its weapons of mass destruction, which means, the symbolism could include a great part of the global worlds political, governmental, and financial system and the populations of the earth being destroyed by weapons of mass destruction. In the following Psalm, the writer comforts the faithful during such widespread destruction:

- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah* (Psalm 46:1-3).

The rest of the Psalm goes on to say that the LORD utters His voice and the nations rage, kingdoms totter and the earth melts, but the LORD is with His people. Though He brings desolations on the earth He is the fortress of the faithful, and will make wars cease to the end of the earth until He is exalted among the nations and in the earth! (Psalm 46:5-11).

MOUNTAINS QUAKED

NAHUM 1:5-6

- **Nahum 1:5-6:** The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. ⁶ Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

The statement, "the mountains quaked," can refer to, mountains literally shaking, or used as a hyperbole (i.e., exaggeration) to highlight the fierceness, violence, and ferocity of a battle and of God's presence in the battle.

EVERY MOUNTAIN MOVED FROM ITS PLACE

REVELATION 6:14

- **Revelation 6:14:** The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

The mountain could signify: a literal worldwide violent upheaval and sudden change to the surface of the earth and a displacement of the sea. Perhaps preparing the earth for a better world when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy, and peace on earth.

Figuratively the mountain could signify: a massive shaking and collapse of governments worldwide and the complete fall and ruin of the world's financial banking system of credit, and interest, and global trade, which would result in civil chaos, robbery, and violence worldwide.

SNAPSHOT: mountains appear to be permanently fixed and immovable, it is because of this removing them symbolically carries the following two idea:

1. Kingdoms, empires, secular thrones, dynasties, strong political governments, and institutions and powerful rulers of countries and nations, that have been established for generations will be removed.
2. Religious organisations, Popes, cardinals, bishops, churches and ministers amongst all countries and nations of the world, that have great influence over the populations of the world, that have been established for generations will be removed.

The expression, "every mountain and island will be removed from its place, figuratively signifies these two groups being overthrown and moved out of their place and brought to ruin, preparing the way for a new order of things to rise in their place.

A GREAT MOUNTAIN BURNING WITH FIRE

REVELATION 8:8

- The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. (Rev. 8:8).

A mountain is a natural symbol of strength, and it was upon mountains that the early civilisations built fortified places, and it was in these place that the seats of power rested. For these reasons mountains became a symbol of strong and mighty nations, but not necessarily a nation, that came from a mountainous region, but a nation that by its steadfast might and strength signified a powerful and strong nation such as Babylon and Rome and any other warlike nation of the similar character and strength that had power over much of the world.

Here the fiery burning mountain signifies God's judgment and wrath being poured out on the most powerful nations of the earth (i.e., the antichristian ten horned beast nations) and thereby bringing the rulers of this world to utter-ruin and all the populations of the world who are under their authority, power, and influence (signified by the sea), too confusion, bewilderment, distress and ultimately collapse and destruction. Since the focus here is the second trumpet (i.e., the latter days) this idea is in harmony with Daniels vision of the stone being cut out by no human hand (signifying Christ), that struck Nebuchadnezzar image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces, so that the entire statute of iron, clay, bronze, silver and gold, completely fell and was so utterly broken in pieces, that it became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, that

the wind carried away, so that not a trace of the statute could be found, signifying the entire global world system of governments, finance and trade collapsing. After which the stone that struck the image becomes a great mountain that fills the whole earth, symbolising Christ ruling from Jerusalem as King of kings and Lord of lords, with the resurrected redeemed establishing God's Kingdom on earth, and the kingdoms of this world becoming the Kingdom of Christ. (Daniel 2:34-45).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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