

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*I Cor. 1.18*).

Message
of
Jesus Christ

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Haste to the Mountain

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Saints, are you fighting battles that are stronger than ever before? Are you at a loss as to how to do battle in the midst of Satan's attacks? Do you long for more of the Lord in your life?

Satan, in his rage against God, is bombarding the saints' minds with lies, ungodly thoughts, false accusations, discouragement, unwarranted guilt . . . He plants feelings of anger, defeat, hopelessness . . . Those who are walking with the Lord Jesus Christ, living a godly life, can sense the power of the enemy's presence and the evil with which we are surrounded.

The constant awareness of iniquity, the evil which seems to close in around us, often obscures the sense of God's presence and His guidance in our lives; it becomes difficult to "hear" the Lord's voice as He speaks to our hearts.

It is time to **Haste to the "Mountain of the Lord,"** to run into His presence – a place where we are safe, even though engaged in the attack of the enemy – and be strengthened for the battle. Our strength comes from the Lord, from holding on to the Lord, being totally dependent upon Him – while in battle against Satan.

Are we not living in the midst of modern Sodom and Gomorrah and in danger of God's judgment? In Genesis, Chapter 19, we see similarities between ourselves and Lot and between our nation and Sodom and Gomorrah. The wickedness of those cities is more and more accepted by society as our nation turns further and further away from the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in Jesus Christ, worshipping false gods and accepting sinful lifestyles.

Read Genesis 19.1-11 and compare Lot's ungodly surroundings with what is going on in our nation today. The atmosphere is charged with Satan's evil ways and thoughts. His ministers, as well as evil spirits, are at work in their efforts, their mission, to defeat the saints and destroy the Gospel of Jesus Christ which tells us of salvation provided through the Blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ (II Cor 11.13-15).

II Peter 2.6-8 gives us insight into the heart and character of Lot while he was living in Sodom. Peter says that God,

... turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned *[them]* with an overthrow, making *[them]* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation *[lifestyle]* of the wicked:

The Apostle Paul found the "**Mountain of the Lord**" in Arabia where, for three years, Jesus prepared him and changed him from the enemy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the powerful Apostle that he was to the Gentiles.

The "**Mountain of the Lord**" is indeed a place of refuge; however, the "**Mountain of the Lord**" is also a place of His glorious presence, a place where we can be with the Lord in quietness, seeking His face and worshiping Him. It is a place where we need to spend time alone with Him.

Jesus Christ, while here on earth, went to the mountain to pray and to be alone with the Father. How much more we need to take time to be alone with the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ and seek His face in our lives – daily. The "invitation" is given:

Haste to the "Mountain of the Lord" and
be strengthened in your walk with Him.

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed /his/ righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds.

Here is a righteous man who is provoked with the evil around him . . . Verse nine reads:

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.

God not only knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation, but He does deliver the godly.

Let us look at God's deliverance of Lot, his wife, and daughters in Genesis 19. The Lord sent two angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, but first the angels stopped at Lot's house and gave him and his family an opportunity to escape – with their help.

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; **lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.**

And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed (Gen 19.15-17).

The angels hastened Lot and his family and urged them to escape for their lives. In essence, the angels said, **Haste to the Mountain.** The iniquity of the city was so over-powering that Lot and his family were in danger of being consumed in the iniquity and reap the judgment of God. This mountain to which Lot eventually escaped (Gen 19.30) was a place designated by God for Lot's safety, a place securing his and his family's lives; but, the disobedience of Lot's wife in looking back cost her – her life. Iniquity is destructive; it results in death. When God provides a way of escape, DO NOT LOOK BACK.

The “**Mountain of the Lord,**” God's presence, has been available to the people of God all through the ages. Let us consider the two Israelite spies in Joshua, Chapter Two. Before going to battle against Jericho, Joshua sent two spies to look over the situation. The harlot, Rahab, took them in; and when the king of Jericho sent to take the spies, she hid them on the roof of her house, later helping them to escape.

And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house [was] upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way (Jos 2.3, 6-8, 15, 16).

When the enemy is attacking or pursuing us, let us Haste to the Mountain and hide ourselves in the Lord's presence for “three days” – or for the duration of the attack. There is safety; **there is life** in the “**Mountain of the Lord.**”

Let us digress for a moment and consider the mountain. In many places in the Scripture, the “mountain” is significant as the place of God's presence. For example, when the Children of Israel came to Mt. Sinai after leaving Egypt, God descended upon Mt. Sinai and spoke to them and gave to Moses the Ten Commandments, and the statutes, judgments, and laws (Ex 32.15, 16; Lev 26.46). When Moses longed to see God, God called him to come to the top of the mountain. The top of the mountain was where God's presence rested. There Moses was allowed to see God and experience His glory (Ex 33.18-23; 34.6-8).

Notice what Micah, the prophet, says about the mountain in Jerusalem:

But in the last days it shall come to pass, [that] the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the **mountain of the LORD**, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Mic 4.1, 2).

Our *Message* of January, 2014, was about Moses' desire to see God and His glory – and his climb to the top of Mount Sinai into God's presence (Ex 33.18-34.9). The top of that mountain burned with **Holy fire**, enough to cause anyone to fear and tremble; but look at Hebrews 12.18-29, an “invitation” to us to come to the mountain – not Mount Sinai, but Mount Zion, the “**Mountain of the Lord.**”

For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels (Heb 12.18, 22).

I want to encourage you to seek the presence of the Lord by “climbing” to the top of that “mountain” – on your knees in prayer, in your study of the Word of God, in your constant awareness of your walk in the Spirit, and in your surrender of your will and life to the will and direction of God.

It is when you are in the “**Mountain of the Lord,**” His presence, that you are safe and strengthened while engaged in battle with Satan. When in danger, when facing a test or trial, when confronted or attacked by Satan, or when you yearn for a closer relationship with God, make your first response always to **Haste to the Mountain.**

The mountain may not look like what you expected, but **Haste to the “Mountain of the Lord;**” and spend necessary time with the Lord to restore your life and strength – and to change you into the person that the Lord God wants you to be.