

“VOICES FROM THE VALLEY”
(How God Proves Himself Strong In Our ‘Low’ Moments)
I Kings 20:13-30

“And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, thus saith the Lord, because the Syrians have said, **The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys**, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.” (V.28)

Introduction

Fact: I Kings 20 is a chapter of encouragement and victory.

1. It reveals to us the *working* of God.
2. It reveals to us the *character* of God.
3. It reveals to us the *ability* of God.
4. It reveals to us the *faithfulness* of God.
5. It reveals to us the *unchanging* truth.

(Verse 28) that God is a God of the **hills**, and God is a God of the **valleys** just the same.

(I Kings 20 is the account of two invasions)

- ◆ Two times Israel was invaded by the Syrians.
- ◆ Two times the enemy came in like a flood.
- ◆ Two times the invaders were defeated (hands down).

Question: Why did God grant victory over the enemy?

Answer: Two reasons are given in scripture.

1. To show us that the Lord is the one true God.
“I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord.” (V. 13)
2. To show us that the Lord is not limited by what limits us.
“Because the Syrians have said, the Lord is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys.” (V. 28)

**Why did God punish Benhadad?
(The leader of the Syrians)**

1. Benhadad was proud and greedy (Vs. 3 & 6)
 - ◆ He boasted of his possessions and his army; he said that neither God nor man could withstand him.
2. Benhadad was defiant (V. 10)
 - ◆ He said, “The dust of Samaria will provide each of my followers with a handful.”
3. Benhadad was a drunkard. (Vs. 12 & 16)
 - ◆ He was a poor example to his soldiers in a time of war.

Questions with Answers

1. How did Benhadad try to intimidate Israel?
2. Why was God so emphatic in responding to the enemy invasion?
3. How does I Kings 20 speak to me as I walk with God?

4. What's the lesson for your life and mine?
5. And what difference does it make where God finds us in this service?

The Process of Victory in the Valley

I. The Inquisition (Vs. 13:21)

“By whom? Who shall order the battle?” (V. 14)

(See the picture here)

1. In Verse 1, Benhadad attacked and besieged Samaria (the capital of Israel).
2. In Verse 2, Benhadad sent messengers to Israel because he couldn't take over the capital.
3. In Verses 3 & 4, Ahab agrees to give up some silver and gold.
4. In Verses 5 & 6, Benhadad wants more (he's coming tomorrow).
5. In Verse 7, Israel is warned of Benhadad's mischief.
6. In Verse 8, Israel is told, “Don't give in to the enemy.”
7. In Verse 9, Israel sends word to Benhadad, “Forget it, you're not coming into the city.”
8. In Verse 10, Benhadad (the enemy) says, “I'm coming in to take you over.”
9. In Verse 13, God sends an unnamed prophet with an encouraging word to Israel: “I will deliver and you'll know it's the Lord.”
10. In Verse 14, after Ahab receives the Lord's promise of deliverance, we have the inquisition, the question, the inquiry.

(It's where we all live at some time)

(In Verse 14)

1. “Lord, by whom?” (or) “How Lord, will you defeat Benhadad?”
2. “Who shall order the battle?” (or) “Who will you use to display your mighty power?”

In Other Words

- ◆ “Lord, how are you going to do it?”
- ◆ “Lord, what strategy will you use?”
- ◆ “Lord, who will you use to reveal your glory?”
- ◆ “Lord, I'm concerned over how you'll be able to win this time.”

The facts are:

1. Syria did invade Samaria (in Israel) as planned.
2. But God kept His word and showed us a great lesson; “And they slew everyone.” (V. 20)

In Other Words

1. It was useless to fret and worry!
2. It was useless to question God!
3. It was useless to doubt the promise of God!
4. It was useless to wonder if God would keep His word!

Fact: What Israel worried about, God took care of! (Repeat)

Question: Have any worries today?

Question: Have any unknown uncertainties that fill your mind?

Question: Have any inquiries as to how God is going to do something?

Question: Have any doubt as to how God is going to move a mountain?

...answer your prayer?
...provide the need?

...save your children?
...supply the funds?

(I Discover Here)

1. That God has the answer before I ask the question.
2. That God has the solution before I present the problem.
3. That God sees the future before I even complete my today.

II. The Intimidation (Vs. 22-27)

Fact: In the first invasion, Benhadad (Israel's enemy) was defeated hands down.

Fact: Benhadad left to recover from his losses (but made plans to strike again).

Fact: Benhadad is just like the enemy of our souls.

(The Devil)

1. He hates it when you're making progress.
2. His territory is being lost in your life.
3. His plans are not winning over you.

(What does the enemy of Israel do?)

Verse 23, "Let's get them in the valley and we will win next time."

Verse 25, "In the valley we will be stronger than them."

(Then the intimidation)

"The children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids, but the Syrians filled the country." (V. 27)

Question: Why did the Syrians fill the country and surround Israel?

Answer:

- ◆ To **intimidate** and **put fear** in the Israelites,
- ◆ To **polarize** and **paralyze** the hearts of God's people,
- ◆ To get Israel's eyes **off the Lord** and onto the enemy.

1. The Israelites were out-manned.
2. The Israelites were out-maneuvered.
3. The Israelites were out-positioned.

But if God be for you, who can be against you?

Remember:

(It's the enemy's job to whisper doubt in your mind)

1. "There's no way that God can pull this one off."
2. "Look at all the odds against you."
3. "How will you ever see this one through?"
4. "In the valley you haven't got a chance."

◆ And just when you're at your weakest, God has a message for you...

III. The Inspiration (V. 28)

Fact: Again, a man of God comes on the scene to deliver a message in Verse 28.

Question: Why is the man unnamed?

Answer: Because it is the message (not the messenger) God wants us to take hold of.

What's the message?

"Thus saith the Lord, because the Syrians have said, the Lord is God of the hills, **but He is not God of the valleys**; therefore will I deliver all this great multitude, and ye shall know that I am the Lord." (V. 28)

Question: Why is God revealed to us as "**God of the valleys?**" (Two reasons)

1. To destroy the false philosophy of the world which says that God is only the God of the hills (The high places and prosperous times).
2. To reveal to God's people true Bible theology that the Lord is also God of the valleys and the low places. (Repeat)

Fact: God is God of the deep!

Fact: God is God of the trials!

Fact: God is God of the tribulations!

Fact: God is God of the sorrow!

Fact: God is God of the pain!

Fact: God is God of the unexpected!

(Verse 28 is a word to inspire us all)

1. That your limitations do not limit God.
2. That your impossibilities do not frustrate God.
3. That your "tough" prayer requests are not tough for God.

IV. The Intervention (Vs. 29 & 30)

Fact: For seven days, the Syrians intimidated Israel.

Fact: In one day 100,000 Syrians were slain.

Fact: And God proved faithful once again.

Question: How could this victory take place?

Answer: Because Father stepped in!
Because God then is God now!

1. He is never late in arriving.
2. He is never lost for direction.
3. He is never limited in ability.
4. He is never fearful of impossibilities.
5. He is never anxious over your need.

Why Not?

- ◆ Because God is not only God of the hills, **He is also God of the valleys!!!**

AMEN!
Bill Kirk