

# GOD OF THE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS

1 KING 20:13-30

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — JANUARY 2, 2022

---

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 King 20:13-30

### *Ahab Defeats Ben-hadad*

13 And behold, a prophet came near to Ahab king of Israel and said, "Thus says the Lord, Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will give it into your hand this day, and you shall know that I am the Lord." 14 And Ahab said, "By whom?" He said, "Thus says the Lord, By the servants of the governors of the districts." Then he said, "Who shall begin the battle?" He answered, "You." 15 Then he mustered the servants of the governors of the districts, and they were 232. And after them he mustered all the people of Israel, seven thousand.

16 And they went out at noon, while Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the booths, he and the thirty-two kings who helped him. 17 The servants of the governors of the districts went out first. And Ben-hadad sent out scouts, and they reported to him, "Men are coming out from Samaria." 18 He said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive. Or if they have come out for war, take them alive."

19 So these went out of the city, the servants of the governors of the districts and the army that followed them. 20 And each struck down his man. The Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them, but Ben-hadad king of Syria escaped on a horse with horsemen. 21 And the king of Israel went out and struck the horses and chariots, and struck the Syrians with a great blow.

22 Then the prophet came near to the king of Israel and said to him, "Come, strengthen yourself, and consider well what you have to do, for in the spring the king of Syria will come up against you."

23 And the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills, and so they were stronger than we. But let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. 24 And do this: remove the kings, each from his post, and put commanders in their places, 25 and muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they." And he listened to their voice and did so.

### *Ahab Defeats Ben-hadad Again*

26 In the spring, Ben-hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. 27 And the people of Israel were mustered and were provisioned and went against them. The people of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the country. 28 And a man of God came near and said to the king of Israel, "Thus says the Lord, 'Because the Syrians have said, "The Lord is a god of the hills but he is not a god of the valleys," therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the Lord.'" 29 And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then on the seventh day the battle was joined. And the people of Israel struck down of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day. 30 And the rest fled into the city of Aphek, and the wall fell upon 27,000 men who were left.

*Ben-hadad also fled and entered an inner chamber in the city.*

## SERMON RECAP

1. We can learn lessons from good and bad examples in Scripture.
2. The God of our exceptional days is the God of our regular days too.
3. The God of our joys is the God of our sorrows too.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The Sovereign Lord reigns over the whole of life, including its mountains and valleys, exceptional and regular days, joys and sorrows. Yet, the king of Syria was tempted to believe that

God is the God of the hills only, and not the God of the valleys (1 Kings 20:23-28). How might this same temptation be reflected in our own thinking? How might it impact the way we perceive and experience life's difficulties (our own and/or those of others)?

- We sometimes struggle to see and experience the circumstances of life as the Lord sees them. Our thoughts are not always His thoughts (cf. Isaiah 55:8-9). Read and reflect on 2 Kings 6:17, Psalm 146:8, Matthew 20:29-34, and John 9:1-7. What is needed to open our eyes so that we might see the circumstances of life as the Lord sees them, that our ways and thoughts might be more reconciled with His?
- Read Psalm 119:18, Psalm 119:144 and Isaiah 55:6-13. Think of a previously-held personal conviction that has been profoundly upended by God and His Word. Share with your group the greater understanding of Himself and the deeper insight into His Truth that He gave you. How did He open the eyes of your understanding (cf. Ephesians 1:18)? What has been its impact, both in your life and the lives of those around you?

## **PRAYER GUIDES**

- Pray that, by His grace, the Lord teaches us about Himself, that we might know, love, and be devoted to Him above all else. May we learn from Him about Him in ways that draw us into a deeper love for Him and compel us to love others.
- Pray that, by His grace, the Lord keeps us in step with His Spirit according to His Word. Pray that, by His grace, He profoundly sanctifies His sons and daughters across His Church, replacing our thoughts, desires, convictions and life with His.
- Pray for the unique needs of the Church Group members.

## **LEADER NOTES ON MARK 3:29**

Please encourage Church Group members to join the McLean Bible Church family as we intentionally seek the Lord together through 21 Days of Prayer, from January 10-30. Everyone can join through these simple steps:

- i. Go to [mcleanbible.org/prayer](http://mcleanbible.org/prayer).
- ii. On that site, sign up for the "21 Day Prayer Challenge".
- iii. Fill out the "21 Days of Prayer Checklist".
- iv. Share the "21 Days of Prayer" commitment with others, and invite them to join in!