

Victory in the Valleys of Life

Ben-Hadad, a powerful Syrian king with an immense army and 32 allied kings, came up against Israel. The situation looked desperate and victory seemed impossible. However, the Syrians in their arrogance made a mistake: they extended their defiance toward the God of Israel:

1 Kings 20:23 - *Then the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills. Therefore, they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they."*

That was a serious miscalculation on their part. It was a big mistake:

28 *Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the LORD: "Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys," therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD."*

His power is as great on the mountain tops as in the valleys below!

1. This story expands our revelation of God

V.28 ... *"and you shall **know** that I am the Lord"*.

Who is God? How big is our God? He is not only God of the mountains, and God of the good days, but also God of the valleys. There are highs and lows in our human experience, but He remains the same, He is unchanging, He is stable, permanent, immutable, and present!

Psalms 46:1-2 – *"God is our refuge and strength, a **very present** help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea"*

We can trust someone like that. He is not a capricious God but One who never changes.

2. This story explains why God fights battles for us

Have you ever doubted whether God would indeed fight your battles? Perhaps you feel like you are not good enough to have His attention or perfect enough to qualify.

Let me just say that God doesn't fight your battles because you deserve but because every attack of the enemy against you is an attack on His reputation.

V.28 - *Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the Lord: '**Because the Syrians have said, "The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys,"** therefore I...*

God did it because His reputation was at stake. He didn't do it because Ahab was a great king, loyal to Him and obedient. No. Ahab was in fact one of the worst kings of Israel (1 Kings 21:25-26)

Every miracle is about God's reputation and no one else's. God didn't do the miracle to endorse Ahab but to uphold His word and His character. God heals, delivers and gives us victory in spite of our imperfections to uphold His name, to reveal Who He is and to show the immutability of His word and of His covenant! That is why we can believe that He fights our battles.

It is not by our works or by our merit but by His grace and for the honour of His name!

3. This story shows us that there is victory and purpose even in the valleys of life.

The topography of life is full of mountains and valleys. If our lives had a map, we would see a mixture of elevated places of joy and fulfillment but also low, flat places of discouragement, pain, and sometimes fear.

God wants you to conquer those valleys. He wants you to possess them and find purpose in them.

Deuteronomy 11:11-12 - *but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of **hills and valleys**, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, ¹² a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.*

7 things God can do in a valley

Let us take a little tour around 7 valleys in the Bible and find out what God did in each one of them:

1. The Valley of Aphek

(God reveals Himself)

We have already covered this valley: that was where Israel defeated the Syrians. God delivered them so that they would know that he is not only God the mountains but God of the valleys also!

2. The Valley of Aijalon

(God can still do it, it is never too late)

The Valley of Aijalon was where Joshua was running out of time in the battle. The sun was setting fast and victory over the Amalekites seemed to be escaping them. However, God made the sun to stand still in the valley of Aijalon.

Joshua 10:12-13 - *Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the*

*sight of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the **Valley of Aijalon.**”
13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.*

You may think it is too late or you are too far gone. However, God can make up for time lost and still give you the victory. It is never too late!

3. The Valley of Elah

(God can turn challenge into victory)

Elah was the valley where Goliath challenged Israel for 40 days.

1 Samuel 17:2-3 - *2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.*

That valley was the valley of challenge. We know the outcome of the story though: God turned the valley of challenge into a valley of victory. This became the place of David’s greatest victory!

V.45 - *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”*

4. The Valley of Berachah

(God can turn what looks like imminent destruction into irreversible blessing)

The Moabite and the Ammonites made a surprise attack against Judah. The situation was urgent, defeat seemed imminent. As King Jehoshaphat prayed to God, He fought for them. They couldn’t believe their eyes when they finally arrived in the battlefield: victory was theirs. It took them 3 days to gather the spoil. What looked like a valley of destruction became a valley of blessing.

2 Chronicles 20:1-4, 24-26.

V.26 - *And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the Lord; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.*

5. The Valley of Baca

(God can turn weeping into joy)

Psalms 84:5-7 - *Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; The*

rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

Baca = weeping

Psalms 30:11 - You have turned for me my **mourning into dancing**; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.

6. The Valley of Achor

(God can give us a door of hope in the valley of trouble)

Hosea 2:15 - I will give her her vineyards from there, And the **Valley of Achor as a door of hope**; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

Achor = trouble

God can turn a place of trouble into a door of opportunity, and a place of hope. The Amplified Bible says, “*hope and expectation*”

Isaiah 65:10 - Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, For My people who have sought Me.

Isaiah 63:14 - As a beast goes down into the valley, and the Spirit of the Lord causes him to rest, so You lead Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name.

7. The Valley of the shadow of death

This is the final valley for every human being. It is inescapable. However, David said,

Psalms 23:4 - Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

The God of our existence, present with us in the highs and lows of life, the God of mountains and valleys, promises again to be with us, even in that last valley. “*I will fear no evil, for you are with me*”

His presence with us, will usher us into the highest of highs where no more valleys exist to be crossed. As verse 6 of Psalms 23 says, “*and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever*”.