

AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION

Sunday Feb.17, 2019

SERMON: LORD OF MY VALLEYS

Texts 1 Kings 20:28 p. 384 & Psalm 23:1-4 p. 592

Call to worship

Call: All who are weary, come to the Good Shepherd.

Response: Jesus shares my burden and eases my load.

Call: All who mourn, come to the Good Shepherd..

Response: Jesus sees my tears and comforts me.

Call: All who despair, come to the Good Shepherd..

Response: Jesus is my hope, my helper in the midst of trouble.

Call: All who are sick, come to the Good Shepherd..

Response: Jesus makes whole what is broken and heals my infirmities.

All: Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Lord of all our valleys

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving Lord, we might walk through the deepest and darkest valleys of our lives: sickness, job loss, broken marriages, children who've lost their way and, yes, even death. We know these valleys are a part of life that humanity has had to travel since Adam and Eve. But we know that the valley is not the destination. We know the One who has faithfully led his followers through this valley countless times before. For, you, O Lord, are our Shepherd; we shall not want. You, O Lord, lead us beside the still waters. You lead us in the paths of righteousness. We will fear no evil; we will fear nothing in this valley of darkness for you, O Lord, are our Shepherd. Amen.

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Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me!" Psalm 23:4

God said, "Because the Syrians think that I am only the god of the hills and not that I AM THE GOD OF THE VALLEYS, I'm going to give you victory over this huge army so everyone will know that I am the Lord!"
1 Kings 20:28 (NIV)

PART 1: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT VALLEYS

1. VALLEYS ARE A PART OF LIFE

"The Promised Land you are about to enter is a land of hills and valleys . . ."Deut. 11:11 (NLT)

"Don't be surprised when you are tested by troubles or painful suffering, as if something unusual is happening to you."1 Peter 4:12 (TEV)

2. VALLEYS HAPPEN TO EVERYBODY.

"The good man does not escape all troubles — he has them too. But the Lord helps him in each and every one."
Psalm 34:19 (LB)

3. VALLEYS ARE UNPREDICTABLE.

"Don't ever brag about tomorrow, since you don't know what the day will bring forth."Proverbs 27:1 (NLT)

PART 2 : WHAT KIND OF VALLEYS TO EXPECT, Significant Valleys in the Bible

● **THE VALLEY OF SIDDIM (GEN. 14:1-11)**

" . . . this valley was full of sticky tar pits, and when (they) tried to run away from the battle, they slipped and fell in the pits"Genesis 14:10

- Siddim is the valley of failure: where you slip, fall, and get stuck

- **THE VALLEY OF ESHCOL (NUMBERS 13:23-33)**" . . . in our own eyes we felt as small as grasshoppers next to them." Numbers 13:33

- **ESHCOL IS THE VALLEY OF FEAR: I EITHER MOVE AHEAD OR GIVE UP.**

- **THE VALLEY OF ELAH (1 SAMUEL 17:1-58)**
“The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley of Elah between them.” 1 Samuel 17:3
- **ELAH IS THE VALLEY OF CONFLICT: ITS' WHEN YOU'RE FACING A GIANT CHALLENGE**
- **THE VALLEY OF BACA (PSALM 84:5-7)**
“Blessed are those whose strength comes from the Lord . . . As they pass through the Valley of Baca (WEEPING) they make it a place of springs.” Psalm 84:5-6a
- **THE VALLEY OF BACA IS THE VALLEY OF GRIEF AND BARRENNESS.**

CONCLUSION: WHAT TO REMEMBER IN A VALLEY

REMEMBER; YOUR NOT ALONE. “Even when I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, (Salmawet) I will fear no evil, for you are with me!” Psalm 23:4

“When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up — the flames will not consume you!” Isaiah 43:2 (LB)

“As for me, God’s presence is all I need! I’ve made the sovereign Lord my shelter.” Psalm 73:28

REMEMBER; GOD HAS A GOOD PURPOSE FOR MY VALLEY!

“We can even rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and that kind of hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured his love into our hearts.” Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

“I will transform the Valley of Trouble into a Gateway of Hope!” Hosea 2:15 (NLT)

REMEMBER THAT THE REWARD WILL LAST FOREVER!

“For our present troubles are quite small and they won’t last very long. Yet they are producing in us an eternal glory that will last forever and is greater than anything we can imagine!” 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT/GW)