

Valleys

Mountains are places of vision – from a mountain top you can see for miles in every direction. At Sea, your vision is limited to about 20 miles because of the curvature of the Earth. From the Malvern Hills for example you can see easily 30-40 miles when the weather is good. All of the Lord's creation is spread out before you and it is almost impossible not to praise the Lord for the work of his hand, his good gifts to us, his Majesty and Awesome Power.

But mountains are windswept and only low growing plants will survive that can tolerate dry conditions and soil that is not deep. Trees are permanently bowed down in deference to the wind. Any moisture is either evaporated by the wind or runs off to the valleys below.

It is the valleys where most plants, trees and crops grow. They provide shelter, warmth and water. However, valleys can be tough places to be in. Vision is obscured by the mountains which can make long shadows which make it cool and dark.

Travelling along a valley may bring you, in one direction towards the source of a river. This water is often clear and clean having been filtered through the rocks of the mountains above. In the other direction it may bring you out into open country, a wider valley of a larger river or even the estuary and coastline. Psalm 23 has been the Lord's Rhema (now) word to us over the last 12 months or more. In verse 4 we read

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." KJ

There are 153 other verses in the Old Testament referring to valleys but only one in the New Testament.

[Luk 3:5](#) Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; KJ

So what is the difference with New Testament living that every valley shall be filled in? What does this mean for us because we quite clearly do not always have a smooth ride? The presence of Jesus and the personal relationship we have with Him enables us to share in his victory won on the cross. The valleys we go through in our walk with him are filled with his presence which turns everything that is forged against us around to become a blessing, a lesson and a victory. Looking at how these valleys are filled we need to look back at the Old Testament where we can see that valleys are places of Spiritual growth, places where battles are won and there doors to new opportunities.

Psalm 23 v4 "Yea, though I walk through the deep sunless valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil: for you are with me..." Amp.

In this verse we see that the valley is narrow and deep so that the sun does not get in. It would be cold and dark. If narrow there could be the danger of falling rocks and we can imagine other dangers too. But is the presence of our Lord and His love for us that means we can pass through this valley without fear. His love fills this valley and we can look up and see light.

Valleys

Valleys may be battle sites, where victories are won. The Israelites were camped on a mountain on one side of the Elah valley and the Philistines on another but to fight they came down into the valley. This is common to many battles throughout history.

1Sa 17:19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. KJ

Elah is the Valley of Oaks or Terebinth; these are large strong trees. The Lord used little young David wearing no armour to slay the massive Goliath in full battle dress to show that it is not by might or by power but by His Spirit. He still uses the weak to confound the strong for when we are weak He is strong in us.

The Valley of Jezreel is also known as the Plains of Megiddo. This is the place of a battle yet to come. Jezreel means vengeance and destruction we read in Hosea:

Hos 2:21-3 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

The Lord promises to fill this valley with corn, wine and oil. Our God will sow the seed of peace and righteousness.

Ezekiel was taken to a valley full of bones, we are not told its name but it has desert like qualities and was a place once alive but now dead.

Eze 37:1 -3 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

It is the Lord's spoken word that fills this valley with a great living army.

In another dry valley, we see how the valley is filled by the Lord as his people pass through turning sadness to joy.

Psa 84:6 Passing through the valley of weeping (Baca) they make it a place of springs; the early rain also fills the pools with blessings. Amp.

The Valley of Achor (troubling or affliction) runs from Gilgal towards Bethel. Achan's sin was to take the spoils of war from Jericho and stored them up for himself. Achan was stoned to death and by that act the anger of the Lord was turned away from Israel and the door of entrance to the promised inheritance was thrown open.

Hos 2:15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

Jesus has put to death sin on the cross once and for all. The door is open to us to walk through from trouble and affliction into his plans and purposes for our lives.