

Sinai is in the Sanctuary

Psalms 68:15-17 ESV

O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan;
O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan!

16

Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain,
at the mount that God desired for his abode,
yes, where the Lord will dwell forever?

17

The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,
thousands upon thousands;
the Lord is among them; ***Sinai is now in the sanctuary.***

Unless you're using the ESV, your translation probably doesn't say it that way. It might say something like "the Lord is among them ***as in*** Sinai." However, if you are reading in the KJV or NKJV or NASB, you will notice that the words "***as in***" are italicized - meaning they're added because the translators couldn't make sense of the phrase.

It literally says, "Adonai Bam Sinai Baq-qo-des"
"The Lord among them, Sinai in the Holy" (or holy place) aka the Sanctuary.

This caught my attention. Sinai is now in the sanctuary?!

Poetic. Powerful. And in need of contemplation.

Ancient Bashan is current Golan Heights (elevation as high as 6500 feet above sea level).
The "mount God desired for his abode" is Mount Zion in Jerusalem (elevation about 2500 feet about sea level)

Here's the message: you may feel overshadowed and outnumbered by angry oppressive mountains. You may feel small and insignificant compared with the trouble around you.

What are those mountains to you? Is your marriage struggling?

Are you losing a battle against temptation?

Is it a health issue?

Is it anxiety, depression, fear, loss, heartbreak?

Is it financial?

Is it a child that has gone astray?

Is the the political landscape?

Is it the increase of darkness in this world, the increase of evil and hate and suffering and you just feel too insignificant to do anything about it all?

What is God's message to you?

Though the mountains seem big in your eyes, there in the place of worship on the little hill, is Mount Sinai!

In worship, you stand on the fiery mountain of God that quakes and thunders with His power. You are actually on higher summit than Bashan. The mountains of Bashan will tremble when they realize that you stand on the mountain of God's fury and majesty.

Upon your little hill of worship are thousands upon thousands of God's chariots - far outnumbering the enemy.

Temptation will tremble in fear in the place of worship.

The darkness of this world will become small and insignificant as the majesty of Jesus is revealed in the place of worship.

Loneliness will not overcome you but you will overcome on the fiery heights of his passionate love for you!

As far as the political landscape, Psalm 2:1-6

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

2

The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

3

"Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

4

He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.

5

Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

6

"As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

As far as your struggle with fear goes, 2 Kings 6:15-17

When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Paul prayed that you would have your eyes open to the safety and glory of this little hill of worship.

Ephesians 1:16-21

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

All the greatest things in the universe are hidden in smallness and humility.

God came as a baby human born in a barn.

Salvation for the whole world came by God giving up all His rights and submitting to death.

Prayer is quiet, often unseen, often without immediate visible results - and yet it is the conduit that unleashes heaven on Earth.

Worship seems like inactivity. Maybe you feel like you need to be doing something to make the world a better place. But worship actually releases the wrath of God against evil.

The phrase "Sinai is now in Sanctuary" is literally a reference to Jesus bringing wrath to his enemies and peace to his beloved as we worship him. In fact Sinai, in this passage **IS JESUS!**

We'll look at that in a moment.

But here's another example. When the land of Judah was afraid of a coming war with the Assyrians they knew they couldn't win, God said this:

Isaiah 30:29-31

29 **You shall have a song** as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and **gladness of heart**, as when one sets out to the **sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the Lord**, to the Rock of Israel. 30 And the Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in furious anger and a flame of devouring fire, with a cloudburst and storm and hailstones. 31 The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the Lord, when he strikes with his rod. 32 **And every stroke of the appointed staff that the Lord lays on them will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres.**

Worship releases the wrath of God against evil.

All the greatest things in the universe are hidden in smallness and humility.

Looking back at Psalm 68, as I said, it is actually in context to Jesus' return and him being worshiped and bringing peace to His people while his enemies are scattered.

Psalm 68

God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;
and those who hate him shall flee before him!

2

As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;
as wax melts before fire,
so the wicked shall perish before God!

3

But the righteous shall be glad;
they shall exult before God;
they shall be jubilant with joy!

4

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;
his name is the Lord;
exult before him!

5

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

6

God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Jump to verse 12

“The kings of the armies—they flee, they flee!”
The women at home divide the spoil—

13

though you men lie among the sheepfolds—
the wings of a dove covered with silver,
its pinions with shimmering gold.

14

When the Almighty scatters kings there,
let snow fall on Zalmon.

15

O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan;
O many-peaked[c] mountain, mountain of Bashan!

16

Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain,
at the mount that God desired for his abode,
yes, where the Lord will dwell forever?

17

The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,
thousands upon thousands;
the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary.

Bashan here speaks of literal enemy armies that are coming from Syria or the Golan Heights in the end times. But look at the very next verse!

18

You ascended on high,
leading a host of captives in your train
and receiving gifts among men,
even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.

Ephesians 4 confirms that this is a reference to Jesus.

Ephesians 4:7-11

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”[a]

9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?[b] 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds[c] and teachers,

God is saying to the future enemies of God, yo! Remember the guy who ransomed many from the grave and brought them to eternal life and made them gifts to the world as teachers and prophets and such by imparting in them his very spirit - yeah, that's me and you've done messed with the wrong people! They have worshipped and I am now responding!

Back to Psalm 68

24

Your procession is seen, O God,
the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—

25

the singers in front, the musicians last,
between them virgins playing tambourines:

26

“Bless God in the great congregation,
the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain!”

In light of all this, as you begin to study the sermon on the mount next week, it should all make more sense.

Let's just take a sneak peek at the beginning of Jesus' message.

Open up to Matthew 5 and read along the first 12 verses.

How can you be blessed when you are poor in spirit - when you know you are small the giant mountains around you hate you?

How can you be blessed when people revile you and say false things about you because of your association with Jesus?

Because the Lord is among you - Emmanuel - God with us - Jesus is Mount Sinai and He is in the sanctuary. Your victory is in your worship. Jesus is the Victor!

When finances are standing like mountains above you, go to the place of worship - Sinai is bigger than those mountains.

“Bless God in the great congregation,
the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain!”

He is the fountain. He is the provider! Trust God and His goodness.
Come to the place of worship!

