**God of the Hills and Valleys**

*1 Kings 20:28*

**Introduction**

1. **1 Kings 20:1-22** – Ben-Hadad, king of Syria besieged Samaria, but God gave victory to Israel against his advances.
   1. **(vv. 1-4)** – Ben-Hadad surrounded Samaria, and sent messengers to Ahab, king of Israel, making demands **(v. 3)** – Ahab complied.
   2. **(vv. 5-9)** – Ben-Hadad sent more messengers with more severe demands **(vv. 5-6)**, and the elders counseled Ahab to refuse.
   3. **(vv. 10-12)** – When Ahab refused Ben-Hadad threatened, but Ahab did not back down **(v. 11** – don’t think you’ve gained the victory before the battle has begun), so the king of Samaria readied to attack the city.
   4. **(vv. 13-15)** – God sent a prophet to Ahab to tell him He would give him victory over Ben-Hadad.
   5. **(vv. 16-21)** – The Israelites made their move according to God’s instructions and there was a great slaughter, but Ben-Hadad escaped.
   6. **(v. 22)** – the prophet of God told Ahab that Ben-Hadad would attack again in the spring.
2. **1 Kings 20:23-30** (READ) – the servants of Ben-Hadad suggested to him that the defeat was due to location, and that the God of the Israelites could not give them victory in another place (the plain). God took this as an opportunity to manifest His limitless power by conquering them again in the plains.
   1. Especially – **1 Kings 20:28** – YOU WILL KNOW I AM THE LORD – who is obviously not limited by any circumstance.
   2. It didn’t matter where they fought, if the Lord decided to defeat them it would happen.
3. Illustrative of God in our lives – Concerning our personal lives as the Lord’s disciples we must know that God is the God of both the hills and the valleys.
   1. That is, every moment and circumstance of our lives God is our source of strength.
   2. He always is worthy of our dependency upon Him, whether it be a time that is good, or bad, and deserves our praise and devotion either way.
4. God of the Hills
5. In the heights of success and strength we must realize our dependence on God and give Him the glory.
6. Assyria
   1. **Syro-Ephraimitic uprising** – In the face of the Assyrian threat, Israel and Syria made an alliance. They sought to force Judah to join the alliance, and replace Ahaz with a puppet king, the son of Tabel.
   2. Isaiah’s message – **Isaiah 7:4-9** – it will not come to pass, Ahaz does not need to fear.
      1. **(vv. 8-9)** – Head of Syria – Damascus (capital of Syria) – Rezin is head – Syria is all that Damascus/Rezin will rule (I.E. NOT JUDAH).
         1. Within 65 years – Ephraim (Israel) will altogether cease to be a nation – captivity.
         2. Head of Ephraim – Samaria (capital of Israel) – Remaliah’s son (Pekah) is head – Israel is all Samaria and Pekah will rule (I.E. NOT JUDAH).
      2. Ahaz does not believe God, and God tells him Assyria will be used to judge Judah – **Isaiah 7:17**
      3. Assyria will overwhelm Judah like waters of a mighty river, but only to the neck – Jerusalem will be spared – **Isaiah 8:6-8**
   3. Isaiah reveals Assyria’s arrogance after the success – **Isaiah 10:12-19**
      1. **(vv. 13-14)** – claims that it is by their own power.
      2. **(v. 15)** – they were merely a tool in God’s hand – God brought the victory.
      3. **(vv. 16-19)** – God would bring them down.
7. Saul
   1. Israel grew tired of the current system of the Judges, and demanded a king from Samuel – **1 Samuel 8:4-7**
   2. Saul is chosen by God to be the first king of Israel – **1 Samuel 10:1**
   3. Saul finds success through God – **1 Samuel 11:13-15** – delivers Jabesh Gilead from the Ammonites.
   4. Makes unlawful sacrifice under Philistine threat – **1 Samuel 13:9, 13**
   5. Fails to utterly destroy Amalek (Spares Agag, and best animals) – **1 Samuel 15:10, 13-23, 26** – God regrets making him king, Samuel sent to rebuke him, and inform that he will be replaced as king.
      1. **(v. 17)** – when he was humble God made him king.
      2. **(vv. 22-23)** – His position led to forgetting God’s desires, and making presumptions.
      3. **(v. 26)** – rejected God’s word, and God would bring him low.
8. David
   1. When Saul made the unlawful sacrifice – **1 Samuel 13:14** – Lord sought a man after His heart – David.
   2. David anointed king – **1 Samuel 16:13**
   3. David finds success:
      1. Defeating Goliath – **1 Samuel 17:37, 45-47** – trust in God, glory to Him.
      2. Other military success – **1 Samuel 18:7, 12** – Saul intimidated by David, and is seeking to destroy him.
   4. David has opportunity to kill Saul, but refuses based on His faithfulness to God, and trust that God is in control:
      1. **1 Samuel 24:3-7** – in a cave in the Wilderness of En Gedi.
      2. **1 Samuel 26:7-12** – in the Wilderness of Ziph, when David found Saul’s camp, and went into while they slept.
   5. **David did not allow his exalted state from God cause him to forget about God, but acted in deference to God’s will, and trusted in Him.**
9. God of the Valleys
10. In the lows of struggle and weakness we must realize God’s power and faithfulness and continue to trust in Him.
11. Israel
    1. After being sold by his brothers to Ishmaelites on the way to Egypt, Joseph was elevated to power in Egypt by God. God used the position to which He raised him to save his family in time of famine **– Genesis 50:19-21** – After Joseph is revealed to his brothers.
    2. Israelites multiplied – **Exodus 1:7** – God brought them from few, who struggled in famine, to a mighty number.
    3. Pharaoh is intimidated, and deals harshly with them – **Exodus 1:11-14**
       1. As they kept multiplying, Pharaoh issued a decree to kill all the male children – **Exodus 1:22**
       2. God used the faith of Moses’ parents to deliver him from destruction.
    4. God heard the affliction of Israel, and brought delivered them – **Exodus 3:7-10**
    5. God delivered them, and promised their ascension as a nation through faithfulness to Him – **Exodus 19:4-6**
12. Hannah
    1. Israelite, Elkanah had two wives – **1 Samuel 1:2** – Hannah was barren.
    2. Peninnah treated Hannah terribly – **1 Samuel 1:6-7**
       1. In this valley, Hannah turned to the Lord – **1 Samuel 1:9-11**
       2. The Lord answered her prayer – **1 Samuel 1:19-20** – she gave Samuel to the Lord as she said she would.
    3. Hannah’s prayer shows that God is the God of the valleys, and is to be magnified for His lovingkindness – **1 Samuel 2:1-10**
13. Job’s Wife
    1. Job, and his wife, were severely afflicted.
       1. Sabean raid – took away oxen/donkeys, killed servants.
       2. Fire burned up the sheep and servants.
       3. Chaldean raid – took away camels, killed servants.
       4. Great wind struck house where Job’s children were, and it collapsed on them and they all died.
       5. Took away all that he had – **Job 1:20-22** – Job maintains his faith.
    2. Then, Job’s health was affected.
       1. Job struck with painful boils all over – scraped them with potsherds.
       2. Job’s wife – **Job 2:9** – did not appreciate that God is God of the valleys
       3. Job – **Job 2:10** – Job realized that God was still good, righteous, and was worthy of his faith.
14. God of the Hills and Valleys
15. Everything good comes from God – **James 1:17** – Physically and spiritually.
    1. When we are in a time of prosperity, happiness, and success, we are to give God the glory, and resolve to strengthen our faith in Him.
16. God is the solution to all our problems – **Lamentations 3:19-27** – Physically and spiritually.
    1. When we are in a time of poverty, sorrow, and difficulty, we are to put our trust in God, still give Him the glory, and strengthen ourselves by His grace.
17. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble – **James 4:6-10**
    1. God is of the hills and will bring those low who do not acknowledge Him as such.
       1. We must keep Him elevated as the priority and value.
    2. God is of the valleys and will bring those high who trust in Him as such.
       1. We must not despair, and be swallowed with sorrow, but resolve to look to Him.

**Conclusion**

1. We must acknowledge God’s place in the positive matters of life, and the negative.
2. God is certainly the One to whom all praise is due when we are on the hills of life – physically and spiritually.
3. We must also understand He is the One to be sought for help and power, and praised as He lifts us up when we find ourselves in the valleys of life – physically and spiritually.