

# Speak To The Mountain



By: Dempsey C. Howard

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# Significance of A Mountain

If you want the feeling of magnificence and awe, even “feeling of power” go to the mountains, stand beside one and look up.

There is such a feeling of awe, as being in the presence of something greater than self when in the mountain ranges of this country. In the United States alone, we have some of the most beautiful mountain ranges that can be found. We have the Blue Ridge, Appalachians, Smokey’s, The Pocono’s, The Ozark’s, and The Rocky Mountains as well as others that may have been over looked.

Wonder why God created mountains? As a personal view on why mountains were created for other than division of lands, I think God wanted us to see something big. And when we see the beauty and the unknown desirable habitat of them, we think of him.

Mountains can give a source of life. Cities are built at the base of them. Mines are created to provide jobs. The state of West Virginia is saturated with coal mines in which generated power is produced from the bounty of the mountains. Dams are built at the base of them from which rivers come flowing down to create energy sources. Recreational areas such as Aspen, Colorado sit high on mountain tops to provide skiing, resorts, and more. For years people have escaped to the beauty of the mountains for a time of peace and relaxation. For years families such as mine have enjoyed escape to the quiet of the mountains. Writers have used mountains as a symbol of escape to serenity in books for ages, even horror writers such as Stephen King, have used the peace of the mountains as is found in his book and movie “The Shinning” which showed great beauty for purposes to create plots of terror.

In the pioneer days, people lost lives in crossing the mountains as many were not able to endure the cold of the night, or the savagery of the land. Donner Pass is well known for it’s savagery that man endured while crossing the mountains to the west. The unknown events around the next hill or passage were sometimes more than man could endure alone. Those who pressed through the peril of the long journey became victorious at journey’s end.

In biblical days, shepherds would move their flocks to the base of the mountains for the animals to graze on the grass growing in the valleys below. It was the run off coming from the melting snow that would cause the valleys to be green with grass and good soil was often found for planting of a harvest.

Mountains have long been used also as a source of God communicating with man. Members of The Cherokee Indian Tribe sought refuge in the mountains of Western NC in the 1800's as they were to have walked the Trail of Tears. They felt safe, and in the protection of God. Today, pastors have retreats at places such as "The Cove" that Billy Graham made available where they attend held in beautiful mountain settings. Coincidence or ordained? We can often hear reference in some religions in which people must climb a mountain to have time with their "holy man".

Daily, we as man have created mountains to climb, yet the passage is laid out for us to cross with greater ease.

# Symbols of Mountains in The Bible

Usage of mountains being mentioned in the bible is quite direct in many descriptions of God's power.

Noah's Ark landed high on top of a mountain as after destruction, survivors are seen on top of a mountain (Genesis 8:4).

Abraham went to one to make his sacrifice. His testing was done on a mountain (Genesis 22: 1-9).

God's law was given on the mountain when Moses went to the mountain and communed with God (Exodus 19:2).

A promise was seen from the top of one in Exodus 34:1.

Battle was done on Mount Carmel found in I Kings 18: 19-42.

David lived in on Zion, 2 Samuel 5:7.

David also hid in the mountains.

Jesus was tempted on one. He was also transfigured on one.

A prophecy of the "rocks and mountains shall praise" was given in the bible and considered by many to be doing so today.

The bible often uses the mountains as a place of refuge, or God speaking to man. We see many times where men went to the mountain to speak to God.

Ever wonder why God spoke in those days from the mountain? Does he still speak from there? I would think that he speaks from the mountain because of man's awe for its might and stature. Man at times have fears of the mountains because of its unknown habitat. Yet God comes to us from man's unknowing, yet having knowledge of his existence.

# Symbols of Mountains in Life

In our individual lives we all have “mountains” that seem to be before us. We have the mountain of bills in which we imagine a pile of bills higher than the roof, the mountain of work on our desks overflowing the inbox. The mountain heartache that comes from family, sickness, or daily strife. One more mountain to cross and we don't know if we are gonna make it. Ever heard that one? These mountains always sound and seem to be such a burden.

Some years ago, we were ministering in a small church in Mississippi. They had a picture of a mountain and a line indicating an amount of money needed to move a “mountain” in the path of the church which was financial. What seemed an impossibility was seen as possible that day as the mountain was taken down, the money was raised and they were able to move forward.

We have all heard and are reminded so often when we talk about a mountain in our lives.. that “our faith can move a mountain” in your life. This is true, very true for our faith can move “mountains”.

I am reminded as the story is told of a woman that for years had the odious task of crossing a small mountain to get to the local store. As she grew older, the harder the task became. It was quite a journey for her. She prayed to God that he “move that mountain” for her as so her journey would be easier. For years she prayed that prayer believing that she would walk out and see that mountain gone, but daily it stood. Daily she prayed till one day, she was awakened to the sound of heavy machinery. Looking out the back door of her home, the mountain was being MOVED! Her prayer had been answered as the huge mountain was being taken away piece by piece to make way for a new super highway, and shopping centers to be built nearby. Her prayers had seemingly paid off? Could it have been Faith, caused that mountain to move?

Think on it if you will. Does faith move the mountain... or does endurance in faith cause the mountains in your life to move?

# Mountain Roads

If you have ever traveled on a mountain road, then you know they can be scary at times. As a child, when we would ride through the mountains and I would be sitting in the back seat of the car, it seemed as if daddy would take the curves so fast, for he loved to drive in the mountains. I would fear as a child but as an adult I find I drive like he did! Along the Blue Ridge Parkway in NC, there are places in which you can see right over the edge and the distance is far to the bottom. Caution is called for on Mountain roads. The curves are tight. The incline is steep and becomes rapid if not controlled. There are times when you find you are in fog or clouds that cause your vision to be impaired to the things that lie ahead. On a recent trip through the mountains, We were taken suddenly by heavy fog that was so thick we went from 55 MPH suddenly to a dead stop on the interstate. We feared oncoming vehicles in our lane facing the same situation.

Again reminded another time while making our way to a church service one night in the dark mountains of West Virginia, we found ourselves on a winding road that was not made for our bus to really travel on in ease. At one point, the driver found as he was going around a curve he was literally hanging over the edge. With caution we made the journey with out difficulty. Without fear, no, for we experienced fear on the mountain roads those nights.

The beauty of the surroundings while on a mountain road in clear day can be so captivating however we fail to notice impending dangers if we are not careful.

# Rock Slides

While driving on any road in a mountain you will see signs which will say, "Watch for Fallen Rock".

I have never seen or witnessed a rock slide as it happens. I have seen rocks fall individually, but the mass of rock at once is not something I wish to experience in person. I have however seen the results of a rock slide after the fact and the power behind it must have been of gigantic proportions.

The mountain itself does not become unstable for it still stands. But the rocks, the boulders, the soil because of erosion became unstable. Rocks are caught in the force of the gravity of this world. If not stable and erosion sets in around them, they will fall to the ground. The results were destructive.

Not only do the rock slides cause destruction to roady ways, they they can reduce or cut off the flow of a river. They can cause destruction to property, to crops, to lives. The damage is not just in the immediate area of the fallen rock, but the dust, the smaller particles reaching farther than the immediate areas of the fall.

Most of the rock slides in which I have heard of happening have been after a "season" of rain. Like the mountains, we in life have a season of rain that causes instability resulting in rock slides. Our life's highways are cut off, our spiritual rivers are rerouted or reduced in flow. Our "land" (II Chron 7:14) or surrounding territories are damaged.



# Detours

Some years back, a series of rock slides along Interstate 40 in NC caused a shift in lanes, and at points detours that seemed to take one miles out of the way on what could be considered by some even more hair raising paths. A great inconvenience. The detours are supposedly carefully planned to cause ease for travel under the circumstances, but due to our consumption by the situation by either failure to notice a sign directing us for either fatigue or frustration the journey is more perilous.

In our life leading us through what we perceive to be mountains or obstacles is seen taking detours. These are caused by the rock slides from our seen mountain.

Are the detours unavoidable? Some yes... some no.

The rock slides along that area in NC have been calmed down some I have noticed in the past few years. They have made barriers, or reinforcements along the side of the mountain. Walls of protection, and fill substances are used to make the sides of the great hills stronger. I am sure that there will be more rock slides to come if the pre planning for the disaster is not made well in advance.

The fallen rock are eventually removed from the path we originally took and the highway is soon opened to all who wish to travel upon it making things much easier. What has happened though to the rocks that had fallen?

The Rocks Are Consumed By The World

Those rocks and boulders along the highway are eventually removed by the heavy machinery and rock crushers that are called on to clear the path. They are broken down, placed in trucks and carried away. Some rocks will be found in driveways, in foundations of homes or landfills, being used in various manufacturing needs. The once beauty and magnificence in which they were a part of, is forgotten. The world has taken them away. The desires of the world are used to do this task. Sometimes however,... as mentioned above the rocks are used as substance to reinforce the hills from future rock slides.

There are some rocks in which man as an individual can move alone with out the aid of machines. These are called pebbles or stones. We can stand and try our best to move each pebble or stone by ourselves and the task would be endless when dealing with rock slides. Continuing our journey is the best

alternative and let the rocks be moved by more powerful sources. Brushing our selves off from the residue caused by the rock slides.

# Men As Rocks

If we may,... lets look at the fallen rock as men. Residue if you will. Men once in fellowship with God. Rocks once part of the body of the mountain consumed by the environmental state. Fallen from the source, and caught in the way or gravity of the world.

Erosion first set in before the Garden of Eden when Lucifer's pride caused his expulsion from the heavenly body. He fell like a rock, like lightening from above, and the destruction caused has been mighty. He is the source of the rock slides in our life which will cause for the consumption of the rocks by the world.

There are men that we encounter daily who would be considered rocks in our life. Family members, our children, our jobs, our finances, our churches even. They cause detours that we must encounter because of the erosive state they have been exposed to. Some for means of good intentions, some because of erosion of the spirit, some because of a lack of teaching are hindrances in our lives. They cause detours which we did not expect. And along those detours we fail to follow the leading of direction, the rocks consume us.

Men once in fellowship with God. Once part of the mass, now part of the mess. Teachers from the mountain, have allowed erosion to enter their lives and because of a lack of communication with the source and listening to and speaking to other "rocks" are set for a rock slide. They will or have come to lose contact with the source, the beauty and be consumed by the ways of the world. No longer are they in the peace and serenity of the mountain range. The extended potential damage from these fallen rock are great because of the unseen particles of "dust" or gossip caused from fallen rocks.

# Now, God As The Mountain

How Does God Fit in As The Mountain?

He is an awesome presence, like a mountain range. Standing firm for ages. Unmovable by man. His beauty is magnificent. His power is mighty. His peace is enjoyable.

Stand beside a mountain range and look up. Look to your left, to your right. It goes on forever. Your size, your problems, they are small in comparison. But your faith, can cause that mountain to move for you. I am not saying you can move God out of the way, I am saying, your faith can cause God as the mountain, the source, to move on your behalf.

Learn to "Speak to the mountain. Not to the rocks that have fallen from the mountain". Remember the verse, James 5:16 "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man, availeth much." Praying to the source and not the residue makes for effectual praying.

Your problems are not the big thing in front of you, (remember the rock slides if you will), it is the rocks that have fallen from it that are the problem. Your effective properly directed prayers can reinforce your way as you travel through the mountain range from the rock slides. Praying in faith, within direct communication with the source. Speak to the mountain.

# Speak to The Mountain as Your Source For Answered Prayers

This writer was recently faced with a series of problems which seemed to be overwhelming and remained to be so, until someone told me to speak to the mountain, and not the rocks. I had been speaking to the “rocks” for the answers, for the solution, but because of the erosive state they had been exposed to, the detour seemed forever going.

Inevitably after a season of spiritual rain in our lives, there will be rock slides in our lives. We seem to have been trapped by circumstances that cause us to stop along the path or missing the signs on the detour, arguing with the rocks. How many of you are caught in a seemingly endless detour on what your path in life was meant to be? How many rocks have you encountered in your path?

How many times have you been seen speaking to the rocks that lay before you?

You find you may argue with a friend over a biblical passage, you speak to the rocks and not the source for the answer? You find you have a child in distress and you seek help from the rocks of the world, and not the source.

A church with discord is nothing more than a rock slide. They were not reinforced with the prayers to the mountain. Erosion sets in and it tumbles, falls and is crushed to be distributed to the world. Husbands or wives in separation or divorce crisis are facing erosion or have been caught in a rock slide.

Your finances seem to pile up like rocks causing what seems to be a mountain of debts because you do not take a path prepared for you.

We are all guilty of speaking to or seeking help in our journeys by speaking to the rocks instead of the mountain. Speaking to the mountain in your faith can cause that mountain to move on your behalf. What problems are you facing today? How are you trying to get the answers? By pass the rocks, take the detours laid out and watch for the signs of direction. Speak to the mountain as you go. Don't just sit where you are waiting for the world to consume the

rocks that lay before you. It could take months, years, or even a life time for some rocks to be removed and the path as a whole to be restored to you. You could even be consumed by more rocks if you “stand there talking” to the rocks. The continued vibrations of just sound can cause another slide to come your way, trapping you hopelessly underneath.

Speak to God as the Mountain! Your prayers do not end, they continue in an echo of your faith. Sometimes the echo will cause more “rock slides” to occur. Let them fall and let the rocks lay. Take the detours if you must. Follow the signs. And continue to speak to the mountain as you go. If you encounter more rocks. Ignore them as far as stopping to carry on conversation. The rocks exist and continue to fall, so face it, but move forward towards the path through God, the mountain. Continue to Speak to the mountain, not the rocks that have fallen from it!







