

THE GOD OF THE VALLEYS

(No. 1277 – 12/15/25 – Sermon Online Zoom)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Hills and valleys

1. Israel had badly defeated the Arameans, but King Ben-Hadad mistakenly thought that Israel's "gods" could only give them victory over their enemies on the hills, not in the valleys:

1 Kings 20:23, 26-29: ²³Meanwhile, the officials of the king of Aram advised him, **"Their gods are gods of the hills. That is why they were too strong for us. But if we fight them on the plains, surely we will be stronger than they..."** ²⁶The next spring Ben-Hadad mustered the Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. ²⁷When the Israelites were also mustered and given provisions, they marched out to meet them. The Israelites camped opposite them like two small flocks of goats, while the Arameans covered the countryside. ²⁸The man of God came up and told the king of Israel, **"This is what the LORD says: 'Because the Arameans think the LORD is a god of the hills and not a god of the valleys, I will deliver this vast army into your hands, and you will know that I am the LORD.'**" ²⁹For seven days they camped opposite each other, and on the seventh day the battle was joined. **The Israelites inflicted a hundred thousand casualties on the Aramean foot soldiers in one day.**

2. We often make the same mistake, thinking that God can only give us victory when we are on the mountaintop, not in the low places of life.
3. There is a very interesting prophecy concerning John the Baptist's ministry:

Luke 3:4-6: ⁴As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him. ⁵**Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.** The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶And all mankind will see God's salvation.'"

B. Valleys are very important

1. There were mountains and valleys in the Promised Land, and *both* are important in God's economy:

Deut. 8:7: *For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the **valleys and hills**.*

2. Most of us would prefer to be on the mountaintop all the time, but God does significant things in the valleys as well.
3. Valleys speak of humility, lowliness, and brokenness—we need these often!
4. Many important events in the Bible took place in valleys:
 - a) Abraham met Melchizedek in the **Valley of Shaveh** after defeating the kings (Gen. 14).
 - b) The sun and moon stood still for a full day in the **Valley of Aijalon** for Joshua.
 - c) David defeated Goliath in the **Valley of Elah** (1 Sam. 17).
 - d) Ezekiel witnessed a miraculous revival in the valley of dry bones (Ezek. 37).
5. There are references to more than 35 specific valleys in 160 verses in the Bible!
 - a) Siddim, Shaveh, Gerar, Hebron, Eschol, Zered, Jericho, Achor, Aijalon, Mizpah, Lebanon, Ben Hinnom, Jezreel, Rephaim, Iphtah El, Sorek, Zeboim, Elah, Salt, Kidron, King's, Kishon, Zephathah, Beracah, Hinnom, Craftsmen, Succoth, Baca, Vision, Slaughter, Gibeon, Jehoshaphat, Decision, and Aven.
 - b) In this study, we will look at **SEVEN DIFFERENT VALLEYS** and their spiritual implications for our lives as we follow Christ.

II. #1: ABUNDANCE (ESHCOL)

- A. When the twelve spies went into Canaan to explore the Promised Land, they brought back first fruits—evidence of the abundance there:
- B. **Num. 13:17-20, 23-27:** ¹⁷*When Moses sent them [12 spies] to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. ¹⁸See what the land is like and whether*

the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.

¹⁹*What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified?*

²⁰*How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? **Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.**"*

(It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) ... ²³*When they reached the **Valley of Eshcol** [Heb. "bunch of grapes"], they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some*

pomegranates and figs. ²⁴*That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there.* ²⁵*At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.* ²⁶*They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole*

*Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and **showed them the fruit** of the land.* ²⁷*They gave Moses this account:*

*"We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! **Here is its fruit.**"*

- C. **Deut. 11:8-15:** ⁸*Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,* ⁹*and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a **land flowing with milk and honey.*** ¹⁰*The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden.* ¹¹*But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a **land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven.*** ¹²*It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.* ¹³*So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul—* ¹⁴*then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.* ¹⁵*I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and **you will eat and be satisfied.***
- D. **Ps. 36:7-8:** ⁷*How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.* ⁸***They feast on the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights.***

- E. This valley represents the abundant, overflowing life promised to all who are in Christ:

John 10:10 (NKJV): *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may **have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

- F. We have already received the first fruits of the Spirit—a foretaste and guarantee of what awaits us in eternity:

1. **Rom. 8:23** (NKJV): *Not only that, but we also who have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

2. **Eph. 1:13-14** (NKJV): ¹³...*having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise, ¹⁴who is the **guarantee of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

- G. We often experience this valley at the beginning of our journey with Christ; God gives us a small taste of His loving care and abundant provision through the overflow of the Holy Spirit, in order to increase our faith for the journey ahead.

III. #2: VISION/REVELATION (SHAVEH/VISION)

- A. **Gen. 14:17-23**: ¹⁷*After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the **Valley of Shaveh** (that is, **the King's Valley**).* ¹⁸*Then **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹and **He blessed Abram**, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”* Then Abram gave Him a tenth of everything. ²¹*The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”* ²²*But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath ²³that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’”*

1. Abram met the Holy Spirit—King Melchizedek—in the King’s Valley!

2. **Heb. 7:1-4:** ¹*This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,* ²*and Abraham gave Him a tenth of everything. First, His name means “king of righteousness”;* then also, “king of Salem [or Jerusalem]” means “king of peace.” ³*Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God He remains a priest forever.* ⁴**Just think how great He was:** *Even the patriarch Abraham gave Him a tenth of the plunder!*
3. Melchizedek is NOT Jesus—Jesus is ANOTHER PRIEST like Melchizedek and Melchizedek is LIKE THE SON OF GOD:

Heb. 7:14-17: ¹⁴*For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.* ¹⁵*And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,* ¹⁶*one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to His ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.* ¹⁷*For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”*

- B. **Isa. 22:1, 5:** ¹*An oracle concerning the Valley of Vision [Heb. “revelation”]: What troubles you now, that you have all gone up on the roofs... ⁵The Lord, the LORD Almighty, has a day of tumult and trampling and terror in the Valley of Vision, a day of battering down walls and of crying out to the mountains.*
- C. This valley represents a very important experience that every Christian needs again and again—fresh vision and revelation from the Holy Spirit:
 1. **Prov. 29:18 (KJV):** *Where there is no vision [“revelation” NIV], the people perish.*
 2. **John 16:12-15:** ¹²*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.* ¹³*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.* ¹⁴*He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.* ¹⁵*All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.*

3. **1 Cor. 2:9-10:** ⁹However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”—¹⁰but **God has revealed it to us by His Spirit**. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
4. **Gal. 1:11-12, 15-16:** ¹¹I want you to know, brothers, that **the gospel I preached is not something that man made up**. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, **I received it by revelation** from Jesus Christ... ¹⁵But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace, was pleased ¹⁶to **reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man**.
5. **Eph. 1:17-19:** ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may **give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may know Him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength...

D. Melchizedek blessed Abraham—what was this blessing?

1. **Gal. 3:13-14:** ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴He redeemed us in order that **the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit**.
2. Get into the King’s Valley and meet King Melchizedek; receive His blessing, the promised gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

Acts 1:4-5, 8: ⁴On one occasion, while He was eating with them, **He gave them this command:** “Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait for the gift My Father promised**, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...** ⁸**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**”

<p>The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift, a promise, and a command!</p>
--

E. Pray for vision and revelation!

IV. #3: WEEPING/TROUBLE/PRAISE (ACHOR/BACA/BERACAH)

- A. **Josh. 7:24-26:** ²⁴Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took **Achan** son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the **Valley of Achor**. ²⁵Joshua said, “Why have you brought this **trouble** on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today.” Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. ²⁶Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from His fierce anger. Therefore, that place has been called the **Valley of Achor** ever since.
1. Achor means “trouble, affliction.”
 2. Achan’s sin brought trouble on the whole congregation of Israel; because of that, God brought trouble on Achan.
- B. Many years later, God gave beautiful promises to Israel concerning the Valley of Achor:
1. **Hos. 2:14-20:** ¹⁴“Therefore I am now going to allure her [Israel]; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵There **I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope**. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. ¹⁶“In that day,” declares the LORD, “you will call Me ‘my Husband’; you will no longer call Me ‘my Master.’ ¹⁷I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. ¹⁸In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. ¹⁹**I will betroth you to Me forever; I will betroth you** in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. ²⁰**I will betroth** you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.
 2. **Isa. 65:10:** Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the **Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for My people who seek Me**.
- C. Sooner or later we all pass through the Valley of Baca—it is better known as the Valley of Tears:

Ps. 84:1-7, 10 (NKJV): ¹How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! ²My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of (1277) The God of the Valleys

the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³*Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near Your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.* ⁴*Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising You.*

⁵***Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.*** ⁶*As they pass through the Valley of Baca [Heb. “weeping, tears; lágrimas” RVR60], **they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.***

⁷*They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion...* ¹⁰*For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.***

1. This is a psalm for pilgrims who have become strangers to this world, for they are looking for God’s dwelling place—the city of God:
 - a) **Heb. 11:8-13:** ⁸*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.* ⁹*By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;* ¹⁰*for he waited [“was looking” NAS] for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God...* ¹³*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that **they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.***
 - b) **1 Pet. 2:11** (KJV): *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.***

2. The Master warned us that there would be many tribulations, persecutions, rejections, and sorrows, but He also gave us this promise:

Mat. 5:4: *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

3. Quite miraculously, in the Valley of Baca, our tears are converted into springs of living water and showers of blessing that cover the valley with refreshing pools!

D. Mourning is turned into dancing, and weeping is replaced with great joy:

1. **Ps. 30:4-5, 11-12:** *⁴Sing to the LORD, you saints of His; praise His holy name. ⁵For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; **weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning...** ¹¹You turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹²that my heart may sing to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give You thanks forever.*
2. **Ps. 126:5-6:** *⁵Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. ⁶He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.*

E. After defeating a vast army from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir (simply by singing and praising God!), Israel came to the **Valley of Beracah** [Heb. “blessing, praise”]:

2 Chron. 20:24-29: *²⁴When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. ²⁵So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. ²⁶On the fourth day they assembled in the **Valley of Beracah**, where **they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Beracah to this day.** ²⁷Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem **returned joyfully to Jerusalem**, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸They entered Jerusalem and **went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lutes and trumpets.** ²⁹The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.*

1. God turned what seemed like certain defeat and annihilation for His people into a great victory!
 2. Singing and praising God is what brought the victory, so it was only fitting for the Israelites to celebrate their triumph in the Valley of Praise!
- F. These valleys all speak of trouble, grief, and conflict, but they were places where God turned things completely around: trouble to hope, tears to rejoicing, and battles to victory and praise!

V. #4: SLAUGHTER/DEATH

- A. **Ps. 23:4:** *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
- B. The prophet Jeremiah repeatedly warned God’s people of horrendous judgment if they refused to repent:

Jer. 19:6-9: ⁶“So beware, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the **Valley of Slaughter**. ⁷In this place I will ruin the plans of Judah and Jerusalem. I will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, at the hands of those who seek their lives, and I will give their carcasses as food to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. ⁸I will devastate this city and make it an object of scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds. ⁹I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and daughters, and they will eat one another’s flesh during the stress of the siege imposed on them by the enemies who seek their lives.”

- C. God took the prophet Ezekiel to Death Valley—a valley filled with dry bones—all that remained after His devastating judgment:

Death Valley, California; is the hottest place on Earth—record temp. is 134° F. (56.7° C.). It is 282 ft. below sea level, the lowest point in North America!

1. Idolatry and sin had brought judgment to the entire nation of Israel— Israel (the northern 10 tribes) was 1st conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.—and Judah (the southern 2 tribes) was invaded and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians about 125 yrs. later in 597 B.C.
 2. Daniel & Ezekiel were among the exiles taken to Babylon (Ezek. 1:1).
 3. Ezekiel knew that Israel as a nation was no more—it was dead!
- D. **Ezek. 37:1-14:** ¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were **very dry**. ³He asked me, “Son of man, **can these bones live?**” I said, “O Sovereign LORD, You alone know.” ⁴Then He said to me, “**Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’** ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: **I will make**

breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶*I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.*” ⁷*So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.* ⁸*I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.* ⁹*Then He said to me, “**Prophesy to the breath;** prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”* ¹⁰*So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.* ¹¹*Then He said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’”* ¹²*Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **O My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.**’* ¹³*Then you, My people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.* ¹⁴*I will put My Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”*

E. vv.1-2 – “valley full of bones... very dry”

1. NOTE: These bones talk! - They were speaking negative things: They say, “Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.” [see v.11-12]
2. Bones were very dry [Heb. *yabesh* = “ashamed, disappointed, confused, withered”]—they were hopeless!
3. We all experience “dead” situations: physical & spiritual death, relationships, dreams, opportunities.

F. v.3 - “Can these bones live?”

1. God often challenges us with questions to stir our faith
2. To Abraham: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gen. 18:14).
3. The faith of our father Abraham: he believed in the God who “gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist” (Rom. 4:17).

4. To Philip: Jesus asked him, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do. (John 6:5 6)
 5. We can’t be sure—only the Sovereign Lord knows—but the fact that He asks is a clue that He wants to do the impossible.
- G. v.4 - “Prophesy to these bones..., ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’”
1. Lit. **preach** to the bones – what foolishness! (1 Cor. 1:21 talks about the foolishness of preaching)!
 2. There is power in the very Word – it is the Word of Life (Gen. 1; 1 Jn. 1:1; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16-17; 10:8,17).
 3. Mat. 8:8 – Centurion’s faith: “Just say the word!”
- H. vv.7-8 - noise, rattling, but **no breath!**
1. Revival isn’t quiet!
 2. Preaching can get the bones rattling and make a lot of noise, but still **no life!**
 3. Bones must come together—joined by tendons = relationships (Eph. 4:13-16; Col. 2:19).
 4. After Ezekiel was finished preaching (prophesying) to the bones, **God needed to do something more!**
- I. v.9 - “Prophesy to the breath”
1. Breath [Heb. *ruach* = “wind, breath, spirit”]
 2. Speak to the Spirit = pray for a move of the Holy Spirit.
 3. Acts 2:1-4 - Spirit came like a mighty *wind* (see Jn. 3:8; 20:22).
 4. No Holy Spirit, no Church!
- J. vv.10,14 - came to life **ONLY** when breath [the Spirit] entered them
1. NOTE: In the previous chapter (Ezek. 36:26-27), God gave the New Covenant promise of the Holy Spirit.
 2. v.14 – “I will put My Spirit in you.”
 3. Zech. 4:6-7
 4. God’s ultimate purpose: A mighty army standing!

K. Summary:

1. Speak the Word to your dead situations.
2. Share the Gospel even with “difficult cases”—it is the power of God for salvation.
3. We were all once dead, but God made us alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1-6).
4. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

VI. #5: VICTORY (ELAH/SALT)

A. 1 Sam. 17 – David defeated Goliath in the Valley of Elah:

1 Sam. 17:2: *Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the **Valley of Elah** and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.*

B. **2 Sam. 8:13:** *And David became famous after he returned from **striking down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.***

C. **Ps. 60:1:** *For the director of music. To the tune of “The Lily of the Covenant.” A miktam of David. For teaching. When he fought Aram Naharaim and Aram Zobah, and when **Joab returned and struck down twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.***

D. **2 Kings 14:7:** *He [King Amaziah] was the one who **defeated ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt** and captured Sela in battle, calling it Joktheel, the name it has to this day.*

E. NOTE: It would be wise for the Edomites to stay away from the Valley of Salt!

F. Salt speaks of our covenant with God which gives us great assurance in battles and trials:

1. **Lev. 2:13:** *Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the **salt of the covenant** of your God out of your grain offerings; **add salt to all your offerings.***
2. **2 Chron. 13:5:** [King Abijah]: *Don't you know that the LORD, the **God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?***

3. **Mat. 5:13:** *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

4. NOTE: David's confidence in defeating Goliath was based on the covenant of circumcision:

1 Sam. 17:26, 36: ²⁶*David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? **Who is this uncircumcised Philistine** that he should defy the armies of the living God? ... ³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; **this uncircumcised Philistine** will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.*

G. These valleys represent great victories that God brings for His covenant people, even when they are up against overwhelming odds.

VII. #6: AIJALON

A. The sun and moon stood still for a full day in the **Valley of Aijalon** for Joshua because of his perseverance to get victory:

Josh. 10:12-14: ¹²*On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the **Valley of Aijalon** [Heb. 'ayâlôn = "deer field (from ram, stag, hart)"] ."* ¹³*So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. ¹⁴There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a man. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!*

B. The prophet Habakkuk was going through a very difficult season where NOTHING GOOD WAS HAPPENING:

Hab. 3:17-19: ¹⁷*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸**YET I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.** ¹⁹*The Sovereign LORD is my strength; **He makes my feet like the feet of a deer** [Heb.**

'ayâlâh = “deer, hind”], **He enables me to go on the heights.**
For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

- C. This valley represents perseverance in overcoming—God makes our feet like the feet of a deer, enabling us to climb the heights when we are down in the dumps!

VIII. #7: DECISION

- A. **Joel 3:14:** *Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision!*
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Discipleship
is a series
of
decisions!

1. God gave us the gift of a free will—He wants us to choose Him, His way—we have to make the decision!
2. Whoever calls on Him will be saved... whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life—not those who refuse!

- B. **Josh. 24:14-15:** ¹⁴*Now fear the LORD and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.* ¹⁵*But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then **CHOOSE for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But **as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.***

- C. **Deut. 30:11-20:** ¹¹*Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.* ¹²*It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?”* ¹³*Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?”* ¹⁴**No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.** ¹⁵**See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.** ¹⁶*For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.* ¹⁷*But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,* ¹⁸*I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.* ¹⁹*This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now***

CHOOSE life, so that you and your children may live²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- D. Paul quoted this very passage when he was preaching Christ to the Romans and calling them to make a decision to put their faith in Him:

Rom. 10:5-10: ⁵Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: “The man who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹That **IF you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1. IF you confess... IF you believe... salvation is conditional.
 2. We must decide in the Valley of Decision!
- E. We must decide to follow Christ and do God’s will:
1. **Mat. 4:19:** “Come, **follow Me**,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
 2. **John 21:22:** Jesus answered [Peter], “If I want him [John] to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? **You must follow Me.**”
 3. **Luke 13:23-24:** ²³Someone asked Him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, ²⁴ “**Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.**”
 4. **Mat. 7:21:** Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven.
 5. **1 John 2:15-17:** ¹⁵**Do not love the world** or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is

not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but **the man who does the will of God lives forever.**

F. We must *choose* the valley of lowliness and humility:

1. **Luke 14:7-11:** ⁷When He noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, He told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, **humiliated**, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, **take the lowest place**, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who **humbles himself** will be exalted.”
2. **1 Cor. 1:27-29:** ²⁷But God chose the **foolish** things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the **weak** things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸He chose the **lowly** things of this world and the **despised** things—and the **things that are not**—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that **no one may boast before Him.**
3. **1 Pet. 5:5-6:** ⁵Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶**Humble yourselves**, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

Humility is not the same thing as humiliation!

IX. SUMMARY

- A. Many believe that God can only give victory and revelation on the mountaintop; but God Himself settled this issue years ago when He declared that He is the “God of the valleys!”
- B. Note also that God is both the God of the hills *and* the valleys—we will go through different seasons, sometimes on the mountaintop and sometimes in the valley, but God NEVER CHANGES: “I am the LORD, **I do not change** (Mal. 3:6).

- C. Many different valleys are mentioned in Scripture, including over 35 named valleys.
- D. Valleys are low places—they represent humility, sorrow, and even death—we die to sin, self, and our own will there.
- E. In the Bible, we find a number of significant events that took place in valleys—David triumphed over Goliath in the Valley of Elah; Joshua stopped the sun and the moon for a full day in the Valley of Aijalon; and Abraham met Melchizedek in the King’s Valley!
- F. In this study, we examined 7 different valleys:
 - 1. Eschol (Abundance)
 - 2. Shaveh/Vision (Revelation)
 - 3. Baca/Achor/Beracah (Weeping/Trouble/Praise)
 - 4. Slaughter/Death
 - 5. Elah/Salt (Victory)
 - 6. Aijalon (Perseverance)
 - 7. Decision
- G. Perhaps the most important valley of all is the Valley of Decision; this is the place where we choose to follow Jesus, do God’s will, and serve Him. Decisions and choices we make for (or against) the Lord determine our eternal destiny. In reality, true discipleship consists of a lifetime of decisions we make with our lives in response to God’s call, His word, and His grace.
- H. May God give us willing hearts to humbly surrender to Him and always choose His way. Amen.