

A.M. OUTLINE
9/3/2023

GOD OF HILLS & VALLEYS

(Psalm 139:7-12)

INTRODUCTION

This lesson looks at the omnipresence of God: (text) and (Proverbs 15:3) "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good"

In the O.T. era, nations had their own god, and they thought that their god only operated in that land.

If you left to go to another country, your god did not go with you.

For that reason, when traveling to another country, the traveler would wear a necklace with a pouch that contained the dirt of his country so that his god would be with him.

Here are 3 Bible stories to illustrate the lesson. (I'll note key verses in your notes)

1. (1 Kings 20:1-30) SYRIA vs. ISRAEL

(v1) "Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria gathered his forces together ... made war against Israel"

(v21) "The king of Israel went out ... killed the Syrians with great slaughter."

(v23) "The servants of the king of Syria said, **Their gods are gods of the hills.** Therefore they were stronger than we. **But if we fight them in the plain,** we will be stronger than they"

(v28-29) "Because the Syrians have said, The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valley, therefore, I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand ... "

(Psalm 23:4) "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."

2. (2 Kings 5:1-17) NAAMAN

(v17) "Naaman said, Then, if not, **please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth;** for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord"

Naaman wants to take Israel's dirt back to Syria to have Israel's God with him there.

3. (Jonah 1-4) JONAH

(Jonah 1:1-3) "the word of the Lord came to Jonah ... Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me. But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord ... "

Nineveh is the capital of Assyria.

Perhaps Jonah is thinking: If I go to another country where God is not, then I will not have to obey the command of God because I'm not in His presence.

You and I cannot escape God's commands by moving to another state.

CLOSE: We serve a God of hills and valleys. Both!

(Psalm 121:1-2) and (Song of Solomon 2:1)