

The Transfiguration

Exodus 24:8-18
Matthew 17:1-9
II Peter 1:15-23



Mountain Top Experiences Take a few moments to recount actual mountain top experiences recorded in the Bible. How would you define a mountain experience? In what sense was Peter's mountain top experience a distraction?

Transfiguration marks the close of the season of Epiphany and ushers in our Lenten journey to the cross. On the mountain we see and hear what we saw and heard at the beginning of Epiphany. Can you identify those two things?

Digging into God's Word

Read Exodus 24:8-18.

What is the event?
Who are the main characters?
Where does the event take place?
What is unusual about this event?
Why is this event significant?

Read Matthew 17:1-9

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Read II Peter 1:15-23

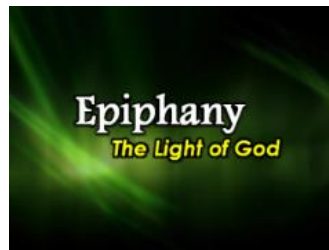
What event does this text reference?
What insight does this text provide those of us who seek mountain top experiences?
What might we rightly call mountain top experiences on par with the Transfiguration?

Mountains Mentioned in the Bible

Mt. Abarim - "the mountains across or beyond Jordan."
Mt. Ararat - The mountain where Noah's ark came to rest.
Mt. Bashan - The territory was famous for its oaks and wild cattle.
Mt. Calvary – (Latin) Golgotha (Greek), the rock of Jesus' crucifixion.
Mt. Carmel - The scene of Elijah's sacrifice.
Mt. Ebal - Where the stones inscribed with the Law were deposited.
Mt. Gerizim - The scene where the Samaritans hold the Passover.
Mt. Gilboa - The place of Saul and Jonathan's death
Mt. Gilead - The scene of the covenant between Laban and Jacob.
Mt. Hermon - North of the Sea of Galilee, perhaps the mountain of the Transfiguration
Mt. Hor - The mountain where Aaron died.
Mt. Horeb - Synonymous with Sinai. It was the scene of the burning bush, of the giving of the Law, and of Elijah's vision.
Mt. Lebanon - Famous as the source of timber for Solomon's Temple.
Mt. Moriah - The site of Abraham's intended sacrifice, and the mountain on which the Temple of Jerusalem was built.
Mt. Nebo - Range of hills forming the western edge of the Moabite plateau above the Jordan.
Mt. Olivet - the scene of David's flight from Absalom; of Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem; and of His Ascension.
Mt. Pisgah - The mountain from which Moses saw the Promised Land.
Mt. Sinai - The mountain where the Israelites encamped for nearly a year, and where the Law was given to Moses. Also called Horeb.
Mt. Tabor - The site of Barak's camp, some identify this mountain as the scene of the Transfiguration of Jesus.
Mt. Zion - The eastern hill of Jerusalem and became the site of David's palace and the Temple.

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