

***The Theology of the Unseen Realm:
How God Uses Angels, Demons and the Holy Assembly***

“Epilogue Lesson #4: The Nations Return to the Mountain”

I. Review – The Setting Aside of the Nations

A. The Babel Event



1. Genesis 11:4-9

“⁴ Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.’ ⁵ And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, ‘Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.’ ⁸ So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.”

B. Call of Abraham



1. Genesis 12:1-3

“¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

C. Moses’ looks back on the Babel event.



1. Deuteronomy 32:7-9 (ESV)

“⁷ Remember the days of old;
consider the years of many generations;
ask your father, and he will show you,
your elders, and they will tell you.

- ⁸ When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of God.
⁹ But the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted heritage."



D. Acts 14:15-17

"¹⁵ 'Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."



E. Acts 17:22-27



"²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: "To the unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us."

II. Introduction

A. The Holy Mountain of God

1. Eden was on a mountain and not in a valley.



a. Genesis 2:10

"¹⁰ Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers."

1. Implied as a mountain because of rivers flowing from it.



b. Ezekiel 28:13a, 14

“¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering....”

...

“¹⁴ You were the anointed cherub who covers,
And I placed you there.
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.”

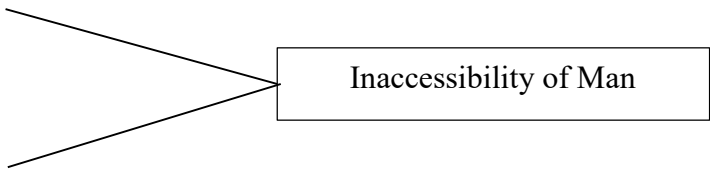
1. Explicit

2. Mountains were where deities dwelled and were inaccessible to humans after the fall. The ancients had no means to scale high mountains. Man was thrown off of God’s mountain.

a. Cold

b. Lack of oxygen

c. No gear for climbing



Inaccessibility of Man

B. Man would try to build his own mountain.

1. Ziggurats

2. Tower of Babel – man’s effort to reunite on his terms.

C. The Biblical Idea

1. Mountains were touch points between the heavens and the earth.

a. Sinai – remember the people were terrified.

2. God has His own holy mountain with His own king.

a. Psalm 2:4-6

“⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.

⁵ Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury, saying,

⁶ ‘But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.’”



D. Matthew's gospel and the importance of mountains.

1. The structure of this book has been organized in a deliberate fashion.
 - a. It is written for a Jewish audience.
 1. "Son of David"
 2. Emphasis upon fulfilled prophecy
2. Five discourses (major sermons).
 - a. The discourses began with the Sermon on the Mount and ended with the Olivet Discourse.
3. However, there is another organizational strand traversing through Matthew's gospel.
 - a. It is the thread of the "mountain".
 - b. Remember: The plan of redemption was to enable us to return to the mountain of God.

1. Revelation 21:10

“¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”

4. While Matthew uses the Greek term for mountain (*oros*) sixteen times, he features seven strategic mountain scenes within the life of Christ that weave together the seen and the unseen worlds.
 - a. These seven mountains have been noted by several scholars over the years although not categorized the same. Each mountain could be a sermon.

III. The Seven Mountains

A. **The Mountain of Testing -- #1**

1. The seen is the third testing by the devil while Jesus is in the wilderness.



a. Matthew 4:8-10

“⁸ Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹ and he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.’ ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”’” (Kingdoms or nations)

2. This is a crossover view between the seen and the unseen realms. Jesus was located in the wilderness, i.e. desert, waterless places.

3. How will rule of the nations be achieved? Give allegiance to the Devil (slander, the English word “diabolical” is from the Greek term) or to the Most High.

a. Jesus is in the wilderness.

b. Who was in the desert? The dead.

c. Satan as god of this world. He in effect is the Lord of the dead.



1. II Corinthians 4:3-4

“³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

B. The Sermon on the Mountain -- #2

1. Chapters 5, 6, 7



2. Matthew 5:1

“¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.”

3. Remember that the law was mediated by angels.



a. Galatians 3:19

“¹⁹ Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.”



b. Acts 7:53

“⁵³ ...you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.”



c. Hebrews 2:1-3

“¹ For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.”

1. Angels acted as intermediaries between a holy God and sinful humanity.

4. Jesus ascends the mountain because the kingdom of God has arrived. The law of Sinai is being expounded with the law of love. Yet, as Sinai was a mountain mandate, so also is this mountain for the disposition of the heart.



a. Matthew 5:27-28

“²⁷ You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; ²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

C. The Mountain of Reconnection -- #3



1. Matthew 14:23

“²³ After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.”

a. Jesus is, in effect, reenergizing himself with God the Father after he fed the 5,000 (vs. 14-21).

b. A common occurrence



1. Luke 5:16

“¹⁶ But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”

D. The Mountain of Feeding – #4



1. Matthew 15:29

“²⁹ Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there.”

a. Jesus heals all who were crippled (vs. 30-31).

b. Then he feeds the 4,000.

2. There is a connection between the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000 (15:30-38).

3. The connection centers on the recipients of Jesus’ feeding and a particular persistent woman makes an important point.



a. Matthew 15:21-28



“²¹ Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.’ ²³ But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, ‘Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.’ ²⁴ But He answered and said, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ ²⁵ But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, ‘Lord, help me!’ ²⁶ And He answered and said, ‘It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.’ ²⁷ But she said, ‘Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.’ ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, ‘O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed at once.”

4. The Canaanite Woman

a. Canaanites – They are arch-enemies of Israel, and this is the only time the term is used in the New Testament. She is a gentile.

b. She cries out (vs. 22). The verb is in the imperfect tense. She is continually or repeatedly doing so.

c. She calls Jesus “Lord” – Authority.

d. She calls Jesus “Son of David” – Messiah.

- e. She pleads no merit for herself – Unrighteousness.
- 5. Jesus' puzzling response.
 - a. Initially Jesus does not speak with her (vs. 23).
 - b. When He does speak, He notes that He was sent to the House of Israel.
 - c. Then He calls her a dog (vs. 26) – Not a wild street dog KUNARIA but rather KYNARION, meaning a pet dog. Yet, still a dog.
 - d. However, Jesus was challenging her faith, and she responds “even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their master’s table.” (vs. 27). Her faith is great and the daughter is delivered. Then he ascends the mountain and later feeds the 4,000.
- 6. Here is the broader point – Jesus.
 - a. Remember that the nations were divorced at Babel.



1. Deuteronomy 32:8-9

“⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
 When He separated the sons of man,
 He set the boundaries of the peoples
 According to the number of the sons of Israel. (“Sons of God” ESV, NET, NRSV)
⁹ For the Lord’s portion is His people;
 Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance.”

- b. The gospel is for both the Jews and the Gentiles. This is one of the signals that Deuteronomy 32:8-9 is officially being reversed. The nations are no longer divorced. Genesis 12:3 is being fulfilled.

E. The Mountain of Transfiguration – #5

- 1. After Jesus asked who do men say that I am at Caesarea Philippi – Old Bashan (16:13-18), he says, the church will be built on the Rock – The Gates of Hell.
- 2. The transfiguration occurs six days later (17:1). In Lesson #12 I asserted the mountain was Hermon and not Tabor.



a. Matthew 17:1

“¹ Six days later Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and *led them up on a high mountain by themselves.”

3. He is transfigured while accompanied by Elijah and Moses. They represent the Law and the Prophets. They were also the only two to have been on Mt. Sinai (Horeb) and also taken to Heaven. Jesus incites the Powers of Darkness on this mountain.
4. “Listen to Him” (17:5).
5. Once again an interface between the seen and unseen realms, the story and the backstory are coming together.

F. The Mountain of Apocalypse – #6



1. Matthew 24:3

“³ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”

- a. The Mount of Olives is about 100 feet higher than the temple.
- b. The manmade temple site with its dead religion will be demolished (24:1-2).
- c. AD 70 obliterates the Old Testament system of animal sacrifices.

G. The Mountain of Commission – #7



1. Matthew 28:16

“¹⁶ But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.”

- a. The mountain was predesignated by Jesus. Notice that the disciples bow down before Jesus, not Jesus bowing before Satan (Mountain of Testing – #1).



b. Psalm 2:6

“⁶ But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

c. He gained all authority by giving up His life. We now must do the same. There is a correspondence to Mountain #2 and the Sermon on the Mount.

2. Commissioned to do what?

a. Make disciples of all nations!

1. The Powers of darkness have failed.

b. Baptize them into the Trinity.

c. Teach the whole counsel of God.

Matthew 28:19-20

3. The rulers never understood the mystery.

a. I Corinthians 2:7-8

“⁷ but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

IV. The Ultimate Mountain.

A. I began by noting that only the gods dwell on mountains.

1. Eden was on the Most High’s Mountain.

B. Just think about where we are all going – to God’s Holy Mountain.

1. Revelation 21:10-11

“¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.”

2. Revelation 21:22-26

“²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; ²⁶ and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.”

3. Meditate on how and why you became a recipient of God's grace. To see and experience all of these things!