

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS
The Kingdom and Cultural Transformation
By Dr. Steve Daily

The story is told of a Baptist preacher, a catholic priest, and a Jewish rabbi, who were discussing how they determined how much of their offerings were used to help the poor and do the work of God, and how much they kept for themselves. So the Baptist preacher drew a small circle on the floor and said, I throw our offering each week up in the air and the little that falls in the circle is mine, and the rest goes for the work of God. The priest said I do something very similar, except I draw a much larger circle on the floor and everything that falls into it goes for the work of God and the little that falls outside is my salary. The rabbi looking a bit disturbed, said, “What is wrong with the two of you, don’t you believe in the power of God. I serve an all powerful God! So I simply throw the whole offering in the air and He takes what He wants, the rest is mine.

Kip, our head sound man who likes to make fun of his Jewish heritage, shared that joke with me, so he gets the credit or blame. But, there is no question that the Jewish people down through the ages have not only developed a reputation for being frugal, but they have endured more suffering than most races, and have been blessed by God and made an impact on the human race like no other group of people. When we look at Nobel Prizes, inventions, contributions to government, philosophy, art and the entertainment industry the Jews have been blessed like no other people. However, it is important to recognize that these blessings have not been based on their merit or goodness according to Scripture, but on the goodness and grace of God. God made this clear when He finally gave them the Canaan Land. Let’s begin over in Deuteronomy 9:4-6, this morning.

Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, “Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

Last week we looked at the first part of the seven mountain prophecy that is based on Revelation 17:9, and this morning as we finish our 12 part series on the fruit of our kingdom tree, we look at the larger global implications of this prophecy, which has to do with the Seventh Angel's proclamation in Revelation 11:15, that "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God." I was raised to believe that this would not occur until the Second Coming of Christ, but as noted last week, it is the Bride of Christ who tramples the gates of hell (Matthew 16:18) before Jesus returns, and it is the Bride of Christ that God uses to crush Satan's head, before He returns (Romans 16:20). So the seven mountains or cultural kingdoms that the devil has dominated throughout the history of sinful humanity are going to be taken back by God, through His people, before He returns, in a manner that will be just as dramatic and amazing as what God did to destroy the nations of Canaan and give these lands to His people - the Israelites. Last week we talked about the first three mountains God will conquer, the mountains of family, education and economics, and this morning we will look at the last four mountains.

1. The mountain of government and politics. To refresh our memories let's go back and read Deuteronomy 7:1, which describes the seven nations that were stronger than Israel that correlate with these seven mountains. "The Lord your God will bring you into the land that you are entering and that you will have as your own. As you go in, He will force out these nations: the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites – seven nations that are stronger than you" (*New Century Version*). The Girgashites were the nation that most closely paralleled the mountain of government and politics. They were a ruthless people, best known for their ambition, corruption and pride. Now some of you are probably thinking, do we have to compare politics and government to these kinds of adjectives – ruthless, ambitious, corrupt and proud. Unfortunately, there has never been greater cynicism about politics and government in America than what we see today.

What has happened in the city of Bell has demonstrated the tragedy of politics run amok. A few months ago, in July, the *LA Times* uncovered the fact that politicians and government managers in this small town had voted themselves salaries and benefits that dwarfed what others in the same positions were making in other small towns. For example, all but one city council member was being paid more than \$100,000 a year for very part time work – council members in other cities of the same size average \$4,800

a year for similar part time work. The assistant city manager was making nearly \$400,000 a year, and the police chief nearly \$500,000 a year. The average police officer was paid \$188,900 per year, but the Chief Executive Officer of the town, or the chief perpetrator, Robert Rizzo received \$1.5 million in salary and benefits last year, more than a million dollars a year above what the governor of any state, the President of the U.S., or the mayor of any other city – even cities of multimillion populations. These salaries passed in special elections that were not properly advertised, where fewer than 400 people voted, and now these individuals are defending their actions as totally legal. If these people are not convicted of crimes, taxpayers are on the hook to pay exorbitant pensions, including more than a million a year for Rizzo alone, for life.

Obviously there are still very dedicated, effective people in government and politics that have great integrity. But, the difference is, when I was growing up these people seemed to be the rule, today they are perceived to be the exception. Many Christians think it is too late to reverse the trends of tragic debt, greed and incompetence that we see in government and politics. But, the Word is telling us that while this mountain is much bigger and greater than our human abilities can deal with, God through His goodness and grace, and because of the wickedness of His enemies, is going to raise up a generation of Josephs, Esthers, Daniels and Joshuas to transform the kingdoms of this world into the kingdoms of our God. My roommate in academy and college was a very bright pre-law student who went on to Berkely and has excelled in his field. I thought seriously, of choosing the same field, but whenever I discussed such a possibility with my Adventist mentors they strongly discouraged it. Their thinking was, why waste your talents on such a worldly profession. But, several of my best friends are Christian lawyers today, who have been transformed by the power of God, and who in turn are being used to transform our culture by God.

My point is that we should encourage our children to pursue whatever line of work they have a passion for and calling from God to fulfill. We need to believe and declare that a generation of Josephs and Esthers are in our midst right now. I used to think that men like Joseph and Daniel were chosen and used by God because they were prototypes of the perfection that God's people were going to reach at the end of time, but these saints did not accomplish great things for God because of their character development, or because of how good they were. Take Joseph, whose life is recorded in fairly significant detail, yet without any recorded sin. I once had a SS

teacher tell me, “You can be sinless, just like Joseph, and do great things for God.” I didn’t have the nerve to tell him that he was already way too late with that thought. But, Joseph wasn’t perfect. He either had a problem with arrogance or stupidity, I don’t know which. However, when you have ten older brothers who hate you because you are the brother from another mother, the mother that the father loves more than your own mother, it doesn’t take a genius to realize that telling these bullies that they are all going to bow down before you and serve you, may not be the most brilliant thing to do. The Bible is never about glorifying what is human, it is always about glorifying God, and celebrating His goodness and grace. God is going to place His people on the mountain of politics and government, but it will be to His glory, not our own.

2. The mountain of media, news and research. The mountain of the media is related most closely to the nation of the Hittites. The Hebrew word Hittite comes from the name *Heth*, which means “fear” or “terror.” All you have to do is watch the news, to see that the media is constantly focusing on the negative, natural disasters, scandals, robberies, murders and every other kind of violent crime that breathes fear into the hearts of humankind. These terrifying spirits rule the air waves and reach millions of people at once through radio, TV, and the internet. God’s Word tells us that He has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7), but this is certainly not true of our enemy. The devil majors in fear and dishonesty. He is the father of lies (John 8:44). So because he dominates the mountain of the media we would expect to see this medium not only spreading terror and fear, but also misleading and lying to people under the pretense of giving us the news we can trust.

When many of us were growing up there was a tendency to believe that when we heard something on the network news or read it in the national media, that it was fairly reliable. The idea of media bias or monopoly was generally considered to be paranoid and unrealistic. When Ben Bagdikian an expert on journalism from Berkeley, wrote his classic book in 1983 entitled, *The Media Monopoly*, warning that there were now only 50 corporations that controlled the nations media, most concerned observers felt there was nothing to worry about – still plenty of competition. But, just four years later the number had fallen to only 28 corporations. By 1992 it had fallen all the way to just 14 corporations. Laws that prevented monopolies were being changed, and by 2000 just six corporations that are tightly networked controlled the entire media. According to Bagdikian, “Their

intricate global interlocks create the force of an international cartel.” If you want to read a very well documented history of how we lost our media objectivity you can find it in this excellent little book entitled, *The Decline and Fall of Public Broadcasting*, by David Barsamian.

Depending on the study you look at, between 85% and 95% of media elites have an open bias against Christianity. Media mogul Ted Turner, is the most outspoken of these, well known for his highly publicized public comments against Christianity including his assertion that Christianity is a “religion for losers.” Former CBS news insider, Bernard Goldberg, has also documented the strong political and philosophical prejudices held by the media elite in his book, *Bias*. If ever there has been a time for Christian young people to enter the field of journalism and shine for God it is now. This media mountain will never be conquered through our Christian strategies, only God can take this mountain. But, we need to be praying that He will transform the hearts of those in power, and raise up prophetic voices in the media as He did with Daniel in Babylon and Esther in Medo-Persia. And we must not underestimate the power of our prayers in this regard.

3. The mountain of creative thought, art, amusement & entertainment.

The nation that most closely correlates with this mountain, that was stronger than Israel, was the Hivites. The Hivites are only mentioned in a few places in Scripture, but in these places they are strongly associated with perversion and deception or trickery. The first place we read of the Hivites is in Genesis 34:1-2. “Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.” The first reference to a Hivite in the Bible involves rape or sexual perversion. If you remember this story you know that this act led to Dinah’s brothers taking vengeance on Shechem by killing Shechem and all the men of the land. The Hivites show up again in Joshua 9 where they encounter Israel in the context of deception and trickery. The Gibeonites were Hivites and they got Joshua to make a treaty with them, to preserve their lives, by pretending to be foreigners when they were actually inhabitants of Canaan.

What nation could better represent Hollywood and the entertainment industry than this. Perversion and deception are the two main tools that this industry uses to capture the hearts of the young. South Park and a host of other perverted programs target kids from an early age, and the whole

entertainment industry produces a false celebrity culture, that idolizes people who live in a world of pretense. This entertainment and amusement culture is deadly in many ways. Michael Medved in his best selling book, *Hollywood VS America*, documented how this industry has systematically targeted the values that made this nation great and attempted to destroy them in the name of greed. Another book, that reveals how we all tend to collude with this industry is, Neil Postman's powerful work, entitled, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. It is easy to blame Hollywood, but how many of us cooperate with their agenda by spending hours in front of the TV.

I was glad to hear Roger say that he was going on a TV fast last week. I've been on a few of those myself – and they usually do some good. I am even more excited to see the kind of thing Chris is doing, that we showed you last week, producing wholesome forms of animation that can truly help kids and protect them from perversion. But, again, we need to remember that this mountain is way bigger than us. The primary thing we are called to do is to declare God's victory over this mountain and to pray and intercede for Hollywood and its leaders. The text over in 2 Chronicles 20:15 where God says to King Jehoshaphat, "the battle is not yours, but the Lord's" is actually referring to a huge army that was related to the Hivites. God will give us the victory over this mountain as we declare it in faith. We have a man right here in Redlands who has been on the cutting edge of this prayer movement for Hollywood for many years. His name is Larry Poland and he operates a world wide ministry called Master Media International. You can find their office right down on 6th Street, it is a great place to visit. For years Burt Swordstrom, from their office prayed with our weekly ministerial group, but he recently moved to Hollywood. But, they pray for a different celebrity every day and I would like to see us partner with them more than we do.

We are making more progress toward our 24/7 prayer ministry, and it is my hope that as this network grows it will include a connection to Master Media and the Hollywood Prayer Network, which is another ministry totally dedicated to seeing God take this mountain for His kingdom. Last Thursday night while we were doing our street ministry, we ran into a group of young men who were on fire for God, they have been leading an all night prayer and worship ministry at Edward's Mansion once a month, and were very excited to see how God was using our ministry. So after our meeting last Friday night, I went over and joined their meeting, and they were very excited to hear about the 24/7 prayer clock that is coming together. Roger is in the process of making a big sign for us and Oasis that can be seen from

the 10 Freeway that will say, Kingdom Life – Oasis. And I would really like it to also say, 24/7 prayer, if we are willing to host such a ministry here. I want you to be praying about that, it will cost us something, but as we declare in interdenominational unity, I believe that we will see the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God.

4. The mountain of spirituality in the workplace. This final mountain has to do with replacing the idolatry of religion, with the true spirituality of the leaven of God's kingdom. Jesus said, "the kingdom of God is like leaven" (Matthew 13:33). It doesn't get confined to religious buildings or weekend services, but is pervasive and connected to every aspect of life, including the workplace. When my son-in-law, Brian, heard about this seven mountain prophecy, he became very excited, because he is currently in charge of building a new hospital in Colorado where he is scheduled to become the CEO. And he has shared with me his desire to build a kingdom hospital, a hospital that will incorporate the full kingdom principles of miraculous healing in partnership with the best medical treatments that we can provide. God wants to take back healthcare, He wants to take back the hospitals, and every work place that the enemy has tried to separate from the kingdom of God.

The nation that was stronger than Israel, that most closely correlates with this mountain, was the nation of the Perizzites. I keep wanting to say, parasites, but its Perizzites. This nation is referred to in Joshua 17:15. "So Joshua answered them, 'If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you'." The Perizzites were known as giants who lived in the high places, the places of worship, the places connected to idolatry. For most Americans their workplace has become a place of idolatry, materialism and workaholism have traditional gone together in the American psyche – that is until just recently – where unemployment and entitlement have changed this picture to some degree. But, the religious spirit is a spirit of works, it fits well with type-A personalities and workaholism. Most of us who have an Adventist background come out of this kind of background. But, God wants us to see our work places as a ministry. He wants to deliver us from the giants of workaholism and materialism, so that he can use us to transform our work places for His kingdom. Many of you have been doing that very thing. In two weeks Sheri is going to be sharing her testimony, and I believe that many from her workplace and neighborhood will be here to hear it.

This mountain of bringing spirituality into every aspect of everyday life and work is the most exciting of them all. As Brother Lawrence put it, it is about practicing the presence of God, wherever we are, and in whatever we are doing. Kingdom Life is not just about attending church on Sabbath. It is about giving glory to God in everything we do, from womb to tomb. As we embrace this vision, and recognize that it is not us, but God through His grace alone who will conquer these mountains, our eyes of faith will be rewarded and we will see, that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God.