

Title: MEETING GOD ON THE MOUNTAINS, MATTHEW 17:1-9  
(Chatham, NJ; 03/02/14, AM) [D – Order of Space Description]

Theme: God has revealed himself over and over again on mountains, and Jesus climaxes God's movement on the mountains by revealing his glory to Peter, James and John.

Purpose: To demonstrate the revelations that have taken place on mountains, and to inspire us to live godly lives accordingly.

Introduction:

1. Think of the most breath-taking mountain view you have ever seen.
2. Are you aware how often mountains figure into God's revelations?
3. The mountains aren't necessarily more holy than any other place, but God has chosen several of them to reveal Himself.
4. What do we see when we read about these experiences where God revealed himself?

#### I. Abraham's Faith, Genesis 22

- A. Isaac offered on Mt. Moriah
  1. Abraham had to travel for three days to get to a mountain
  2. In verses 9-14, we see that Abraham was willing to offer his son
  3. He encounters an experience with the living God
  4. Hebrews 11:17-19 tells us what he was thinking
  5. **We see:** faith, complete and total trust in God
- B. 2 Samuel 24, 1 Chronicles 22:1, 2 Chronicles 3:1
  1. David finds a place to offer sacrifices of atonement
  2. It eventually becomes the site of the temple
  3. As it turns out, it is Mt. Moriah, the place where Abraham demonstrated faith
  4. **We see:** atonement, a place of worship and prayer, God establishing his promises of the covenant with Abraham

#### II. Moses on the Mountain

- A. He receives the Law
  1. God prepared Israel to encounter his majesty and power, Ex. 20:18-21
  2. Moses receives the Law on the mountain, 24:12-18
  3. It seems that he went up several times
  4. **We see:** God's Laws revealed
  5. Not the Ten Suggestions
  6. God doesn't ask our approval for these
  7. We break them at risk to our souls and our eternal destiny
- B. Moses further encounters God, 34:6-9
  1. God lets Moses see him, at least in part
  2. His name and characteristics are revealed: note several
  3. Moses' immediate response is to worship and to plead for mercy
  4. **We see:** the nature of God revealed both in his commandments and in the vision granted to Moses

#### III. Jesus Revealed on the Mountain, Matthew 17:1-9

- A. Peter, James, and John see this
  1. Jesus is transformed into his true glory, 2 (reminiscent of what John saw in Revelation 1:12-16)

2. He is revealed as the lone voice of authority on behalf of God
3. After this they saw him once again in his more mundane human form, 8
4. Could they ever see Jesus the same after this?
5. **We see:** his transformation through their eyes

B. Later witness affirms their testimony

1. Jesus commanded them to silence until after the resurrection, 9
2. Peter affirms it, 2 Peter 1:16-18
3. John affirms his eyewitness to Jesus, 1 John 1:1-3, though he doesn't mention the transfiguration
4. James was martyred for his faith, Acts 12:1-2
5. **We see:** God's Son revealed for the Son that he truly is

Conclusions:

1. Through Jesus we know that God is present and at work in this evil world.
2. We experience these things through the Gospel revealed in Christ.
3. Their witnesses lead us to this message.
4. Can you see it well enough to believe it?
5. We hear it and accept it by faith; repent of our sins as a result of faith; we confess that Jesus is the mediator between God and man; we are baptized to wash away our sins.
6. This new life leads us to a lifetime of obedience and faithfulness.
7. Go to the mountains, believe, and come back with eternal life.