

THE MASTERCRAFT:

“CLIMBING TO THE HILLTOP”

NOV 15, 2020

CLIMBING TO THE HILLTOP

Our text is Zachariah 12, the bible (NIV) calls it “the Oracle”

12 A prophecy: The word of the LORD concerning Israel (YOU).

“The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person, declares:

2 “I am going to make Jerusalem (YOU) a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling (shock, amazement)...” (KJV calls it “cup of trembling”).

“**3** On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

... **5** Even the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘**The people of Jerusalem (YOU) are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.**’”

In Numbers 27:12, the Lord said to Moses, “Go up to this mountain of Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the sons of Israel for a possession.”

At the hills, we get full clarity of our vision.

1 King 18:42

So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of mount Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees.

The hills is a place of one on one with God.

Unless we climb to the hilltop, we cannot build a society we want on the other side - you will be running a path influenced by others' opinions.

The hilltop is a place you can be alone with God. The place you do things as you are led by the Spirit of God. The place you enjoy the voice of God.

People who understand what it takes to climb and stay at the hilltop enjoy God's presence.

Psalm 24 says:

**3“Who may climb the mountain (hill) of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?”**

4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

We have emphasized a lot on “clean hands and pure heart” (Righteousness)

Focus today is on “trust in an idol “

Where does your help come from?

In David’s song of Ascents – Psalm 121, David said:

1“I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come? **2**My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. **3**He will not allow your foot to slip; your Protector will not slumber.

Climbing to the hill is not easy. It presents a lot of obstacles...

If the hill is in the bush, there will be many obstacles from the bushes and if it is in the open, there will be obstacles from the winds and storm.

In climbing to the hilltop, we must, therefore, lift up our eyes to the hills, to our God.

No wonder God says, in Zachariah 12

³ On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her (YOU), I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.”

God goes all out to defend us when we are climbing the hill with our focus on Him.

2 Chronicles 20:12

O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast army that comes against us. We do not know what to do, **but our eyes are upon You.**“

Psalms 146:5

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Isaiah 42:16

“And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.”

Those who are climbing to the hills do not put their trust and confidence in man:

Jer 17:5

Thus says the Lord, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind. And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord.”

Isaiah 2:22

Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; For why should he be esteemed?

Isaiah 31:1

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help
And rely on horses,
And trust in chariots
because they are many
And in horsemen because they are very strong,
But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord!

Prov. 3: 5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

In climbing to the hilltop, our focus and trust must be in our God. We should never trust man or trust even our own self/understanding
God Bless You.