

Chapter 22 I WILL DELIVER

1 Kings 20:28

*"Because the Syrians have said,
"The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not
God of the valleys", therefore I will deliver all
this great multitude into your hand, and you
shall know that I AM the Lord."*

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Do we have a God of the hills, or, do we have a God of the hills AND the valleys?

1 Kings 20 describes the Syrians waging war against the Israelites on the hills. The enemy lost the battle.

What did the enemy do after the battle? Did they give up the attack? No! They reasoned with themselves saying, *"Their gods are gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we;; but if we fight against them in the valley {plain} then surely we will be stronger than they."* (v.23)

Do we sometimes find we are overcomers 'on the hills'? But what about in the 'valleys' of life? Can the enemy be then confident that he will gain the victory over our faith, if he re-arrays his forces and comes against us 'in the valley'?

Perhaps we can reflect on and picture the setting; a vivid scene is highlighted in verse 27, part of it reading;

".....the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians filled the countryside."

"Like two little flocks of goats"; surely a picture of helpless weakness and vulnerability in their own strength, and, by natural observations, a formidable picture of overwhelming odds.

But, what had the Syrians done?

They had under-estimated God. They had seen Israel's God as 'God of the hills' only - not as a God to whom nothing is impossible; not as the Almighty God in

control of every situation; not the God whose constant care and guarding is over each who are His own.

This may make us ponder on whether we, too, at times, may falter with a tendency to under-estimate God and to see situations with the perspective that they are just a bit too big a problem for Him.

The Word of God gives much assurance of His sovereignty, a sovereignty always exercised in holy righteousness and the purposes of His Love. Quoting from Proverbs, we read;

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16.9)

"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."
(Proverbs 16.33)

Our vital spiritual food, the Word of God, nourishes and brings steady growth of faith, so that little by little, we may learn to stand steadfast in the 'valleys' of life, not in reliance on any 'strength' of our own but recognising our own weakness in our tendency to anxious thoughts. Our strength must be His strength, the true strength of trusting in God's good and righteous purpose in the 'valleys' and in His encouragement to 'Fear not' but to 'Be still', taking to ourselves the precious truth that He is ever present with us.