

# THE BULWARK

## THE VIEW FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

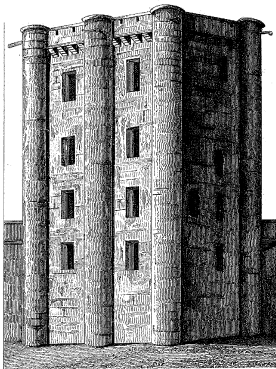
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*"Mark well her bulwarks,  
consider her palaces, that  
you may tell it to the  
generation following"*  
Psalms 48:13

Through out the Scriptures a host of mountains play a dramatic role in the exquisite panorama of God's dealing with mankind. Mountains represent a sense of stability. Equally their beauty beckons one to come and find refuge from hustle and bustle of life. A place of solitude where inward reflection seems to be the natural response. In the Old Testament, Ararat, Sinai, Carmel and Zion played significant roles. While in the New Testament the Mount of Olives along with the mount of Transfiguration and the mount on which Jesus delivered what is referred to as the "Sermon on the Mount" (exact mount of which isn't identified), all figure prominently.

A lot can be learned from the mountain top, even for us today. Have you ever been driving in a valley shrouded in fog, but then your drive takes you up into the mountains. After a few minutes of driving you break free of fog and are bathed with brilliant sunshine. The warmth of the sun begins to wrap around you producing a calming effect. You've risen above the fog; you can see clearly now. Life is kind of like that, inasmuch as circumstances seem to engulf us, so that nothing seems to penetrate.

Move away from the physical and get a spiritual perspective. Rise above the cacophony and fog of life in order to hear and see clearly. Faith is that which allows one to be able to rise above it all.

*"So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) It is by and through faith that we then embrace what Paul penned in Colossians 3:1. "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."*



With a heart set on things above, with the strength afforded by Christ, we triumph over those circumstances in life that seek to swallow us up; no matter how rigorous. *"But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37) In Him one finds the courage and quietness of spirit. Notice what is found in 2Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."*

*"Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." (Philippians 4:11)*

Ah, the bliss of the mountaintop, even if only in a symbolic sense, where one can rest and reflect having "climbed" out of the gloom. Through the spiritual paradigm of our relationship with Christ we can enjoy a new, positive perspective. Refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to press ahead. *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6) (wbe)*