

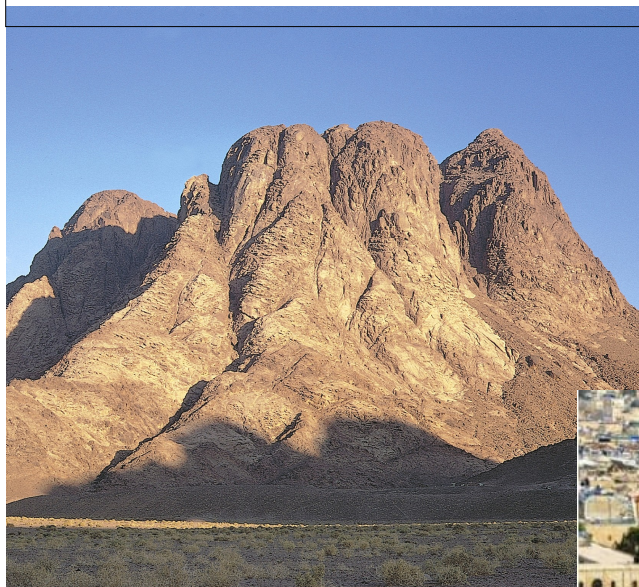
*The Second Week of Lent*

# 'On the Mountains of God'

Mountain Top Experiences - Anyone prepared to share one with us? - Real Mountains that is - not Spiritual ones, yet!

**What is a mountain?...**

No agreed definition, so might be defined by its height, its steepness, its relative height, its height above sea-level... UK - 2 000 feet or 610metres - or even just by its name. 24% of the earth's landmass is 'mountainous' - so they are not rare, and most places have at least one nearby.



Three mountains - two from the Old Testament, and one from the New Testament...

## **No. 1 - Mount Sinai**

The mountain where Moses went to receive the Law is to be found on the way from Egypt to Israel on a peninsula of land that for some 40 years was the place of wandering for the Israelites after the Exodus and the crossing of the Red Sea.

## **No.2 - Mount Zion**

The 'hill' - or rather, one of the hills - that Jerusalem is built upon. Not really a 'Mountain' at all geographically, but just one of many hills and not even the highest!



**And No. 3 - Mount Tabor** - The traditional Mount of the Transfiguration. It is a striking, conical hill - what the Welsh might call a 'Mynydd Mawr' - a big hill sticking out of the plains between Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. Jesus, we are told, took his three friends 'up a high mountain' and Tabor is just about the only one that fits the bill in the area where they were at the time.

Each of these mountains has a story to tell - a picture to paint - that may point us towards our own 'Mountain Experience'



**Psalm 48** - A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, \*  
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

*Beautiful in its loftiness,  
the joy of the whole earth, \*  
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,  
the city of the Great King.*

God is in her citadels; \*  
he has shown himself to be her fortress.

*When the kings joined forces, \*  
when they advanced together,*

they saw her and were astounded;  
they fled in terror.

*Trembling seized them there, \*  
pain like that of a woman in labor.*

You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish \*  
shattered by an east wind.

As we have heard,  
so we have seen  
in the city of the Lord Almighty, \*  
in the city of our God:  
God makes her secure  
forever.

Within your temple, O God, \*  
we meditate on your unfailing love.

Like your name, O God,  
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; \*  
your right hand is filled with  
righteousness.

Mount Zion rejoices, \*  
the villages of Judah are glad  
because of your judgments.

*Walk about Zion, go around her, \*  
count her towers,*

Consider well her ramparts,  
view her citadels, \*  
that you may tell of them  
to the next generation.

For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
\*  
*he will be our guide even to the end.*

*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be  
praised,*

*In the city of our God,  
In the mountain of His holiness.*

*Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole  
earth,*

*Is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north,*

*The city of the great King.*

*Is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north,  
The city of the great King.*

*One body, one Spirit, one faith, one Lord,  
One people, one nation, praise ye the  
Lord.*

*Praise ye the LORD - Halleluia  
Praise ye the LORD - Halleluia  
Praise ye the LORD - Halleluia  
Praise ye the LORD!*