

## SEVEN BIBLE VALLEYS

⇒ **Bible reading:** Psalm 23.

⇒ **Aim:**

- To show that Jesus Christ is with us in life's valleys.
- We can trust Him to bring us through them.

⇒ **Introduction:**

- All of us go through valley experiences and mountain top experiences.
  - We need to stay close to God during:
    - 1) The good times, lest pride of thinking we don't need God causes us to stumble.
    - 2) The tough times, lest we complain, become bitter and stop trusting God.
  - Of all the Bible texts that have comforted the hearts of troubled souls, strengthened the backs of weary travelers and encouraged the spirits of broken hearts, Psalm 23 has done the most.
  - A little girl once said: "The Lord is my shepherd, and that's all I want."
    - The text for our study is: **Psalm 23:4 – read.**
  - You young people look at us older people and say: "Boy, they're about to die."
  - Well, we get worried about you too.
    - You go out in the car, and we think you are going to die.
    - You worry about us dying, we worry about you dying.
  - The great reason for the sweetness of life with Jesus Christ is the fact that when we walk through the valleys, Jesus Christ is there.
  - There are 7 great valleys in the Bible.
    - Let us look at these valleys.
    - In each of these, God is with us. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of..." (Psalm 23:4).
- ⇒ **1. The Valley of Siddim = The Valley of Sin. (Genesis 14:1-12, v. 10).**
- This is the valley of the slime pits.
  - **Question:** Why is the valley of Siddim called the valley of the slime pits?
  - **Answer:** Because the Valley of Siddim is on the very spot where the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were located.
    - God saw the wickedness, sensuality, sodomy, adultery and drunkenness of these wicked, vile cities.
    - God rained fire and brimstone on these evil cities.
  - This valley is a valley where sin abounded.
    - This valley represents the valley of sin in our lives.
  - **Question:** Did you know that when you go to the wicked nightclubs, live it up and go to the depths of sin, that God is with you?
    - Did you know that when you have hit bottom, when nobody else cares, and when you've spent all, and then you come to your senses and say: "I will rise and go to my Father", that God is always there?
    - God is there right where you are.
    - If you are not saved, He is there knocking on the door of your heart.
    - He wants to save you.
    - He wants to forgive your every sin.
    - He wants to come into your life.

- He wants to take you to heaven when you die.
- He wants to make you a new creature.
- He wants to send His Holy Spirit to indwell you.
- God gave His Son to die for sinners like you.
- Jesus went to the cross for you.
- It doesn't matter how deep into sin you've gone.
- He is there.
- Are you in the Valley of Siddim?
  - Are you in deep awful sin?
  - Have you gone to the bottom?
  - Is life empty?
  - Are you without anybody who seems to care?
  - Then God says "I am here."
  - This morning He knocks on your door and says... "I will forgive every sin, I will make you my child, I will write your name in heaven."
- Oh dear unsaved friend living in the Valley of Siddim, come to Christ this day.
  - He is here.
- ⇒ **2. The Valley of Eschol = The Valley of Decision. (Deuteronomy 1:21-26).**
  - Eschol is located just inside the Promised Land.
    - Remember the large bundles of grapes carried on the spies shoulders from Eschol?
    - When the Israelites came to the Promised Land at Kadesh-Barnea, they appointed 12 spies to search out the Promised Land.
    - They returned reporting that the land flowed with milk and honey, and that it was a land of giants.
    - The grapes they brought back were so big that it took 2 men to carry one bunch on a pole.
    - These grapes were picked from the Valley of Eschol.
  - **Question:**
    - What is the Valley of Eschol?
  - **Answer:**
    - It was where the Hebrews faced a decision in their lives.
    - It was Eschol where they had to decide whether to obey God and move into Canaan or go back to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.
  - In Eschol they decided whether to be their fullest and best for God, or to be less than what God wanted.
    - The Valley of Eschol is the valley of decision.
    - My friend, are you are in the valley of decision.
    - God wants to help you make the right choices.
    - Surrender your whole life to God.
    - Ask God to lead you to do His will in the Valley of Decision.
- ⇒ **3. The Valley of Kidron = The Valley of Suffering. (Mark 14:32-38).**
  - It is the valley on the east outside the Golden Gate of Jerusalem.
    - It is the valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.
    - It is where Gethsemane is located, where Jesus prayed in anguish before His crucifixion.

- It is also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat. (**Joel 3:12-16**).
- **Question:**
  - What is the Valley of Kidron?
- **Answer:**
  - A cemetery is there.
  - Samson is buried there.
  - Samuel is buried there.
  - James is buried there.
  - Absalom is buried there.
  - A Muslim cemetery is there, thinking that will prevent Christ returning there.
- This is the valley of suffering.
  - Many of you are in this valley at this present time.
  - Our Lord Jesus Christ is in the valley of suffering with you.
- Young people, to you, life is all a party, but it won't always be that way.
  - The day will come when you'll have problems, burdens, heartaches and valleys, many caused by you:
    - a) Mixing with the wrong crowd,
    - b) Committing sins,
    - c) Going your own way rather than God's way.
    - d) Marrying or living with an unbeliever.
  - When the valleys come, the Lord Jesus Christ is there with you.
- **Question:**
  - Are you in the valley of sin this morning?
    - He is there.
- **Question:**
  - Are you in the valley of decision?
    - He is there.
- **Question:**
  - Are you in the valley of suffering, heartache, tears and brokenness?
    - He is there.
- ⇒ **4. The Valley of Elah = The Valley of Battle. (I Samuel 17:14).**
  - David met Goliath in the Valley of Elah.
    - Israel and David faced and fought Goliath and the Philistines in the Valley of Elah.
    - David slung a stone at Goliath, hit him in the forehead and killed him in the valley of Elah.
    - Israel gained a great victory over the Philistines in the valley of Elah.
  - This is the valley of battle.
    - As well as God being in the valley of sin, decision, and suffering, He is also with you in the valley of life's battles.
  - **Question:**
    - Are you facing some battle this day?
    - Is there some temptation you feel you cannot resist?
      - God is there.
      - "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man:" **I Corinthians 10:13.**

- **Question:**
  - Do people make fun of you for being a Christian?
  - It can be a battle everyday.
    - Lean on God.
    - He is there in the valley of battle.
  - Pray, read your Bible, be at church, continue in the battle for souls, keep trusting God to bring you through.
- ⇒ **5. The Valley of Achor = The Valley of Discipline, Chastening for Unbelievers. (Joshua 7:24-26).**
  - This is the valley where Achan was stoned to death for taking the accursed thing from Jericho.
    - God said to Israel; “Don’t take anything in Jericho, it is accursed, it is dedicated to God.”
    - Achan took gold, silver and coats.
      - Sin came into the camp.
      - The battle of Ai was lost because Israel tolerated sin in the camp unknowingly.
      - God wants us to repent of our sinful habits.
    - Joshua called the people together, and cast lots to see who had sinned.
      - The lot fell on Achan.
    - Israel stoned Achan to death as God commanded.
  - **Application:** When we sin, God must discipline us to keep us from deeper sin and trouble.
  - Even in the valley of discipline, God is with us.
    - He disciplines us because He loves us. **Hebrew 12:5-15.**
  - The Lord Jesus Christ is with us in the valley of Siddim (sin), Eschol (decision), Kidron (suffering), Elah (battle), and in the valley of Achor (Chastening).
- ⇒ **6. The Valley of Gehenna = The Valley of Death. (Jeremiah 19:5,6).**
  - Gehenna is the burning garbage dump at the south end of Jerusalem just outside the wall.
    - Fire burned the garbage continually.
  - Jesus described hell as burning Gehenna forever.
  - For those of you who die without Christ, this is called the valley of death.
    - Christ will not be there.
  - If you have rejected Christ all your life, you will have your way and you’ll go to a Christless eternity in the lake of fire pictured by Gehenna’s burning garbage.
  - If you have received Christ as your Saviour, you’ll have no fear of death, because Jesus will be with you in death as He has been with you in life.
    - If you suffer, He is there.
    - If you are tempted, He is there.
    - If you are in battle, He is there.
    - If you are in a decision, He is there.
    - If you are in death, He is there (if you are saved).
- ⇒ **7. The Valley of Jezreel/ Megiddo = The Valley of Armageddon. (Zechariah 12:10,11).**
  - The armies of the world will gather here for the great end time battle.
    - The Lord Jesus shall descend from heaven at this valley.
      - **Zechariah 14:1-5.**

- From the day of your salvation and throughout eternity, the Lord Jesus Christ will be with you.