

1 Kings 20-22

The LORD is God of the mountains and the valleys.

Be ready...

1. The enemy attacks (20:1-6).

1 Peter 5:8: Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

2. God empowers (20:13-15, 20-21).

Ephesians 6:10-12: ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness...

3. The LORD is God of the mountains and the valleys (20:23, 26-30).

James 2:2-4: ²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Be cautious...

4. Don't buy the lie (20:31-34).

Proverbs 24:19-22:

¹⁹Fret not yourself because of evildoers,
and be not envious of the wicked,

²⁰for the evil man has no future;
the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

²¹My son, fear the LORD and the king,
and do not join with those who do otherwise,

²²for disaster will arise suddenly from them,
and who knows the ruin that will come from them both?

5. Don't think you're the exception (20:35-43). Numbers 32:23

6. Don't create more problems (21:1-10).

Romans 2:5: But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Be certain...

7. The wicked will be judged (21:16-19, 25-26).

Psalm 37:

¹Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!

²For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend
faithfulness.

⁹For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for
the LORD shall inherit the land.

¹⁰In just a little while, the wicked will
be no more;

though you look carefully at his
place, he will not be there.

8. Humility will suspend judgment (21:27-29).

James 4:4-10: ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

9. People want to believe the lie (22:5-23).

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12: ⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

10. God's plan will prevail (22:29-38).

Ephesians 1:11: ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...