

**Twin Peaks** (Sinai & Zion)**I. Slide1 Announce:**

- A. **Slide2** Baby Dedication (3rd only) - Video
- B. **Slide3** Baby Dedication (3rd only) - Rose Barnes. *Camille Maria Ssuubi Barnes (Milla/Mee-La)*
  1. Mee-La was adopted from **Campala, Uganda**. Rose asked Kel to stand with her, as one who was a big part of this process involved in...**encouraging, counseling, praying, & decision** process. *Esp as a single mom.*
- C. **Slide4** Women's Retreat - 1st day to register. **Guest Speaker Maureen Schaffer** (xmas/HS). Worship Shannon Quintana. **Sign up Info Booth** or at [calvarymarketplace.com](http://calvarymarketplace.com).
- D. **Slide5** CMCS - Our **Preview Night** for our school is this Friday night, from 5-8pm.
  1. A Free Dinner will be served from 5-6pm. **Followed by a short meeting in the sanctuary.** Then visit our campuses & classrooms for the rest of the evening.
  2. CMCS partners with families to **educate** and **equip** Preschool-12th grade students for a lifelong commitment to Christ, emphasizing Spiritual Growth through missions, athletics, and the arts.
- E. **Slide6** Easter Times - 7, 8:30, 10am Inside in Sanct & professional screen/sound system in overflow gym. **Never tried.** *Some can't attend outside (harder for elderly, & young moms w/kids). More inviting for neighbors/non-bel.'s. Large money savings we'll put into Sanct remodel.*
- F. **Slide7** Burma Day of Prayer - Dave & Karen Eubanks. FBR teams.
- G. **Slide8** Title: **Twin Peaks [PRAY]**

**I. Intro:**

- A. The Lord seems to believe **a picture is worth a 1000 words.**
  1. Here the writer downloads 2 pictures for us, comparing: **2 different mountains. 2 different covenants. 2 historic people. 2 important principles.**
  2. **Note all the words that are contrasted** when we read: **Sinai/Zion; heaven/earth; new/old cov.; terror/joy; shake/unshaken; not come/come; distance/closeness; law at Sinai/grace & glory at Zion.**
- B. God gave the Jews a picture they'd never forget back in Exodus.
  1. **Really, a picture of Himself** regarding His **Holiness.**

2. Let's take a peek at our 1st Peak. **The time period**, about 14 centuries before Christ. **The place**, Mnt. Sinai. **The reason**, to give them the 10 commandments. **The picture?**...Let's read (vs.18-24).

## II. TWIN PEAKS (18-24)

### A. Slide9 SINAI (18-21)

B. A Mnt that sits near the base of the Sinai Peninsula. **Others believe** on the Arabian coast.

1. The last 22 ch's of Exodus, all Leviticus, & Numbers ch's 1-11 contain the record of all that transpired at *Sinai*.
2. **Slide10 Show Map of 2 poss locations** - Where the Red Sea forks up with the Gulf of Suez to the West, & the Gulf of Aqaba to its East (tradition supports).

### C. Slide11 – read Ex.19:16-20

1. As *Carole King* wrote in a little different context, *I feel the earth move under my feet*. (what seismic tremors they must have felt)
2. **Gods purpose for this horrific display?**...the absolute **unapproachableness** of God – It was to instill the **proper fear** of God...**Did He accomplish this?**
3. **Slide12 Why would God want man to fear Him?**...**read Ex.20:18-21**
  - a) **Slide13a** To understand that **God is Holy and man is a sinner**...is to stand at the threshold of **Grace**.<sup>1</sup>

### D. Slide13b What was the big problem of Sinai? *It provided no power to overcome sin.*

1. As one put this dilemma to poem, *To run & work the law commands, Yet gives me neither feet nor hands.*

### E. **Today** we aren't tempted to go back to Sinai, in the sense of returning to the law.

1. Yet we do have a tendency to build our own **synthetic Sinai's**.
2. Here's how it works. I go stand on my own little spiritual Sinai, God speaks to me a word of conviction, on...let's say...spending too much time on **social media**. **But** then I run down the mountain & try to share my personal conviction of **"0" social media** now, **but** instead I make it a **thus saith the Lord for everyone**. **Voila**, I have returned to Sinai.
3. Oh, how our lists **elevate us**, while we place **all others** mercilessly in our judgmental *miss-calibrated-scales*.

<sup>1</sup> Kent Hughes; pg.189

F. **Slide14 ZION** (22-24)

G. Formerly the **Jebusite fortress** on the S.E. hill of Jerusalem.

1. The name later included the **City of David**; then the **Temple**; later **all Jerusalem**; figurative of **Judah**; then **the whole of Gods people**; to finally his **spiritual kingdom** which includes all believing Jew & Gentiles; **a.k.a. the city of the living God & the New City Jerusalem.**

a) Here we have Mount Zion exalted to the heavens...literally!

H. **Slide15 Note:** you have come...*Have Come!* (perfect tense) emphasizing our permanent, continuing state.

1. Same word as in: 4:16 **come** boldly to the throne of grace. 7:25 He is also able to save to the uttermost those who **come** to God through Him (Christ). 10:22 let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

I. Listen to the writers **7-fold list** of the **Glories** that await us:

1. **Slide16a God's City** (22a)

- a) When David took the city from the Jebusites, he brought the Ark of the Covenant there for its new home. Thus making this place *the place where God dwelt w/His people*
- b) If you are a believer you **already are** a citizen. **For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.** Phil.3:20
- c) We are **citizens** of Zion who have **left Sinai & marching toward** our **new home/Zion.**
- d) That **new city Jerusalem** will have **beauty** unfathomable; **food** delectable; **fellowship** incredible; **joy** unbelievable; **& a love** *inconceivable.*

2. **Slide16b Angels** (22b)

- a) Angels everywhere.
- b) **General assembly** = festal gathering/assembly.
  - (1) *In ancient culture* this spoke of the great national assemblies.
- c) Oh the **glory** of *singing & worshipping* with these **terrific beings** that have *ministered to us, watched over us, passing in & out of our lives.*

3. **Slide16c Former-Fellow-Believers** (23a)

- a) In ancient days the kings kept a register of their **faithful citizens** (like *king Ahasuerus* having *the Book of Records*, read to him, & ran across the faithful citizen Mordecai)
- b) **Firstborn** – all rights of inheritance go to the 1<sup>st</sup> born, to us who are **co-heirs w/Christ.**

- c) Bishop Westcott says, **we are a society of eldest sons of God**. [there are no 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> sons & daughters in the church]
- d) We all received the **Big fat Inheritance**.
4. **Slide16d God** (23b)
- a) Though the scene in Zion is *very joyous festival*...it is not a casual thing.
- b) We come to **Zion** to meet the God of Sinai, who is judge of all.<sup>2</sup>
- c) How does a **drill sergeant** 1<sup>st</sup> interact w/his new recruits?
- (1) He wants to show them he has: **Absolute ownership** of them; **Total authority** over them; & demands **continual respect** from them.
  - (2) **Now** let's move a few years down the line to the battle field, as they find themselves fighting *shoulder to shoulder* w/their sergeant.
  - (3) There is a different relationship now. He's turned them from *little girls*, **into true soldiers**.
    - (a) They now have total *respect, trust, & allegiance* to their leader.
    - (b) He may now be very personable with His men...**But** they NEVER cross the line & consider him a *buddy*, but always have **respect** for the bars on his sleeve.
  - (4) **Thus w/God**...we grow more & more **personal** with Him, **but** never to a point of thinking of him as *your little buddy*, **nor the Man upstairs**.
    - (a) He is **God the judge of all**.
5. **Slide16e The Departed Faithful** (23c)
- a) Anyone heavenward you're looking forward to seeing again?
- (1) **They will not be made perfect apart from us**. Heb.11:40
6. **Slide16f Jesus** (24a)
- a) **Moses** was the mediator of the Old cov., **but** as great as he was he trembled w/fear.
- b) **But** through **Jesus**, the mediator of the New cov., we draw near w/confidence.
7. **Slide16g Sprinkled blood/i.e. Forgiveness** (24b)
- a) **Abel's** warm blood cried from the ground *vengeance...judgment*, **but Christ's** blood shouts *forgiven...peace w/God*.
- b) Part of Zion's mountain range is Calvary, *the mountain of Love*.
8. **This is a 7-fold list of the Glories that await us...can you add to it?**

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid*; pg.193

- J. The end of the Poem I read earlier says: To **run** and **work** the **Law** commands, Yet gives me neither **feet** nor **hands**; But better news **the gospel** brings: It bids me **fly**, and gives me **wings**.
- K. We have Twin Peaks. Both **mountains**. Both reveal the true God. One pointing to His **consuming fire**...the other to His **consuming Love**.
1. You must **start** at **Sinai** understanding **Gods holiness**...then from their run w/ endurance your marathon race that is set before you to **Zion**.

### III. Slide17 **TWIN DUTIES (25-29)**

#### A. **OBEDIENCE (25-27)**

B. Do not **refuse** the voice of Christ speaking through **the Gospel**.

1. If trouble came to those who refused to hear the voice of God at Sinai...**how much greater** to refuse the message from His own Son.

C. (27b) What are you holding onto that can be **shaken**...that *will be moved/removed*?

1. **Everything that is wrong will be done away with. Sin** won't remain. **Anything that is earth bound.**
2. **Can be shaken?** Rise or fall of the markets. Breaking of banks & bankruptcies. Loss of property. Loss of houses. *Your fig tree may not blossom, and the flocks may cease from your field. See the wreck of everything earthborn.*
  - a) Don't trust anything with the label **made on earth**. Did you know there were **11 millionaires that went down w/the Titanic?** 1 man that survived said, "I had about \$300,000 in \$, jewelry, & securities left in my cabin, at the time the money seemed like a mockery, I picked up **3 oranges** instead."
  3. **So what is unshakeable?**
    - a) Everything **Heaven bound**...like you and I and **spiritual investments in God's Kingdom** that we send ahead of us. **Salvation**. Being His child. Jesus' love, **My Beloved is mine, and I am his**. The disciples we make. Our best portion and richest heritage we **cannot lose**.
    - b) Our relationship w/Him will never be shaken. **It's living for the oranges.**
4. If everything **earthbound** was striped away today, what would **you** be left with?

#### D. **Slide18 WORSHIP (28,29)**

E. (28) **Serve God** – or worship God (*lutreo*)

1. **Slide19** Ignatius Loyola prayed, *Teach us, Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do your will.*<sup>3</sup>
  2. **Slide20** **What I am** is God's gift to me; **what I do** with it is my gift to Him.<sup>4</sup>
- F. **Slide21** (29) **Our God is a consuming fire** – I once watched an old Victorian house be completely consumed by flames, when I lived in Whittier. (uptown, stood across the street)
1. **The flames were so powerful. Flaming Mount Sinai shows us God** [a picture is worth a thousand words] **Note: God is**, not **God was**.
- G. **Slide22** **This morning:** If you haven't visited **Sinai**, do it, **but** make it quick. **Then start your journey to Zion** today. *Consuming fire – Consuming love.*

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<sup>3</sup> Ignatius Loyola. Leadership, Vol. 12, no. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Warren Wiersbe