To the Regions Beyond

Violin Solo

View from Mount Hermon—A Favorite Bible Mountain
Moses detailed the victorious battle with Sihon, King of the Amorites, and with the giant, Og, King of Bashan (De. 3; see also Ps. 136:18-22). As a result of these battles, Mount Hermon, at the north of Israel, was conquered!

Mount Hermon was called Shemir (snow) by the Amorites (De. 3:9). It has seasonal winter and spring snow falls, covering its peaks for most of the year. The Sidonians called it “Sirion”—”leader” (Ps. 29:6). The Canaanites made it the local seat of Baal—Baal Hermon (Jg. 3:3; I Ch. 5:23).

Psalm 133 gives an image of Mt. Hermon’s pleasantness and its bountiful water supply. Because of its height, Mt. Hermon captures a great deal of precipitation, and on the average receives 60 inches of rain a year. (It is also always cold, even in summer, so bring warm clothing!) The melt water from the western and southern slopes seeps into rock channels and pores, feeding springs, which form streams and rivers, which merge to become the Jordan River, “as the dew of Hermon,” descending to the Sea of Galilee, Israel’s chief source of water, and thence to the nation.

Mt. Hermon is the southern tip of the Anti Lebanon Range, which extends 93 miles in a northeast-southwest direction. Its highest peak is 9,232 feet, and is under Syrian control. About 40 square miles of its southern and western slopes lie in Israel’s Golan Heights.

After Peter’s confession at Caesarea Philippi, “Thou are the Christ” (Mt. 16:16), Jesus took Peter, James, and John most likely to Mr. Hermon, 14 miles away, to pray (Lu. 9:28-29; II Pe. 1:18). The transfiguration probably happened at night, because the disciples “were heavy with sleep” (Lu. 9:28-35).

When they awoke they saw Jesus, arrayed in a garment “shining, exceeding white as snow” (Mr. 9:3). Yes, He had on a garment! Everyone is dressed in heaven. Scripture is careful to point out that Christ has appropriate clothing for all His grand administrations. Clothing and raiment also enter into all the descriptions of the saints in glory. They have their robes, their crowns, and their wedding garments. His clothing expresses His sublime power, majesty, and glory.

Mr. Hermon contains a strategic observation post at 7300 feet near Israel’s highest point, and contains Israel’s primary early warning system on its borders with Lebanon and Syria.

From the glory of the transfiguration on Mount Hermon to the humiliation on the cross of Calvary, the Lord Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16). We’ve a wondrous story to tell “To the Regions Beyond” (II. Co. 10:16), “that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me. I am the Lord, and there is none else” (Is. 45:6).
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Albert B. Simpson
Margaret M. Simpson
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Chorus

Fourth Verse

Cresc

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