



# VALLEYS

## Valleys: The Valley of Opposition

May 23rd & 24th

**Speaker:** Pastor Heather Zempel

**Scripture:** Joshua 10:1-13

### Series Overview

We love mountaintops, but the valleys are where faith is forged, vision is revealed, and breakthroughs happen. It's in the valleys of life that His presence is made real and His power is made perfect. During this series, we'll navigate the valley of giants, the valley of shadows, the valley of decision, the valley of heartbreak, and the valley of vision. It's in the valley that we discover who we are, and more importantly, who God is.

### Series Discussion Questions

How have some of the valleys you've experienced shaped who you are today?  
How have they shaped your understanding of God?

### Message Overview

The Valley of Opposition calls us to pray bold, faith-soaked, creative prayers that are rooted in a theology of the greatness of God, a record of the goodness of God, and a practice of the presence of God. If we want to see a move of God today, we have to put a magnifying glass on the miracles He did yesterday. If we want to stand on the promises of God today, we have to anchor ourselves in the promises He fulfilled yesterday. If we want the presence of God to shift our world today, we have to seek His presence every day.

In addition to this week's message, Dr. Kerley Most, psychotherapist and Capitol Hill NCC'er, helps us to navigate valleys with the help of her professional counseling background. [Check out this week's video](#) on how our perception of God and our attachment to Him affects our ability to pray bold prayers, believe in His promises, and magnify His miracles.

## Message-Specific Discussion Questions

When was the last time you shared a promise of God with someone else to encourage them?

Pastor Heather walked through how we can practically go after a move of God:

1. Pick up magnifying glasses
2. Stand on the record of promises
3. Find a tent of meeting

What do you need to do this week to intentionally hover over the miracles in your life with a magnifying glass? How can that inform your faith today?

What promises of God are you standing on today? What go-to Scriptures do you fall back on and keep close to your heart to remind you of God's deliverance and favor in your life?

How can you spend time lingering in His presence this week?

What is the most creative prayer you can pray today?

What prayers do you need to be praying out loud so that others can hear and help you stand firm?

## Practical Application

- Spend time watching [Dr. Most's video](#) this week and completing the activity. What step might you take this week to align your God Concept to your God Image?
- If you have never written down your testimony, do so this week. Ask yourself: how has God been faithful to deliver on His promises for you?
- Root yourself in the faithfulness of God by praying over these promises:
  - You will never leave or forsake me.*
  - In you, Jesus, I am a new creation.*
  - You are working all things together for my good.*
  - You have given me access to abundant life.*
  - This world will bring me trouble, but You, Lord, have overcome the world.*
  - Fill my heart and mind with Your perfect and complete peace.*
  - May my faith in Your Promises move mountains.*
- Join us on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 8pm online at [live.national.cc](https://live.national.cc) as we spend time in prayer and worship on Pentecost Sunday.
- Join us for prayer at 7:14am in our "Upper Zoom" for 10 days coming out of Pentecost Sunday (June 1-10<sup>th</sup>). Stay tuned at [ncc.re/breakthrough](https://ncc.re/breakthrough) for a registration link and more details.

## Digging Deeper Resources

- [Windows Into the Bible Podcast](#) (Marc Turnage) – Episode 4 is specifically about the geography of the Joshua 10 story
- [Satellite Bible Atlas](#) (William Schlegel)
- [Geobasics in the Land of the Bible](#) (James M. Monson)
- [Misreading Scripture Through Western Eyes](#) (E. Randolph Richards)
- Online Map Resources:
  - [www.bible-history.com/geography](http://www.bible-history.com/geography)
  - [www.biblemapper.com](http://www.biblemapper.com)

The book of Joshua details the conquest of the Promised Land, which presents its readers with some challenging questions concerning the character of God and the presence of genocide. Here are two resources that dive into those questions:

- [Show Them No Mercy](#) (Stanley Gundry)
- [God in the Hands of Angry People: Old Testament God](#) (Heather Zempel)