

A landscape photograph of rolling hills under a blue sky with wispy clouds. The hills are covered in sparse vegetation and have a mix of brown and green tones. A white rectangular border is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text 'HIGH PLACES' in a large, white, serif font.

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 4

²³ Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 5

⁵ When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them, saying:

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 5

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 5

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

HIGH PLACES

**First Century Israel
at the time of Jesus
33 AD**

www.bible.ca/maps
Steven Rudd 2017



HIGH PLACES



HIGH PLACES



HIGH PLACES



HIGH PLACES

KEY TERMS

- **Blessed**
- **Kingdom of Heaven**

HIGH PLACES

Important questions

- **Who is the audience?**

HIGH PLACES

Important questions

- **Who is the audience?**
- **What is the background?**

HIGH PLACES

Isaiah 61

¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the Lord to glorify him.

HIGH PLACES

Important questions

- **Who is the audience?**
- **What is the background?**
- **What about Luke 6?**

HIGH PLACES

Luke 6

²⁰ Then looking up at his disciples, he said:

Blessed are you who are poor, because the kingdom of God is yours.

²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, because you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name because of the Son of Man.

THAT IS THE PEACE

Luke 6

²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Take note — your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets.

HIGH PLACES

Luke 6

²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are now full, for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who are now laughing, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the false prophets.

HIGH PLACES

Important questions

- Who is the audience?
- What is the background?
- What about Luke 6?
- What is the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount, and specifically the “Beatitudes”?

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 7

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 5

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HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to God



HIGH PLACES

Revelation 3

¹⁴ “Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God’s creation: ¹⁵ I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth.

HIGH PLACES

Revelation 3

¹⁷ For you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see.

HIGH PLACES

Revelation 3

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be zealous and repent. ²⁰ See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to God

- Poor in spirit
- Kingdom of Heaven is

HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to God

- Poor in spirit
- Those who mourn
- Kingdom of Heaven is
- Will be comforted

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Blessed in relation to God

- Poor in spirit
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HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to God

- Poor in spirit
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- Kingdom of Heaven is
- Will be comforted
- Will inherit the earth
- Will be filled

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 5

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to others



HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to others

- The merciful
- Will be shown mercy

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Blessed in relation to others

- The merciful
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HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to others

- The merciful
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HIGH PLACES

Blessed in relation to others

- The merciful
- The pure in heart
- The peacemakers
- Those who are persecuted because of righteousness
- Will be shown mercy
- Will see God
- Will be called sons of God
- Kingdom of Heaven is theirs

HIGH PLACES

Purpose/ application

- The “Kingdom of Heaven” is not just a future time for which we are to wait. The “Kingdom of Heaven” is available now in the present.

HIGH PLACES

Purpose/ application

- The “Kingdom of Heaven” is realized now in the “heart” of the believer but demands expression in the evil, broken world we live in.

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Purpose/ application

- The world's "Kingdom of Evil" hates the "Kingdom of Heaven" and so we will feel and see the effects of this hatred in the persecution of followers of Jesus to varying degrees.

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Purpose/ application

- The “Beatitudes” are not a list of laws by which we “earn” or “merit” entrance into the “Kingdom of Heaven”; they are instead a description of the repentance and the righteousness that belong to the “Kingdom of Heaven”.

HIGH PLACES

Purpose/ application

- This righteousness of the “Kingdom of Heaven” is not the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ applied to us at salvation—though it is necessary—but the desire of our own heart empowered/enabled by the Spirit of God to pursue His righteousness.

HIGH PLACES

Matthew 6

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

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