### **Moving Mountains**

Jesus said to them,

“If there is faith in you even as a grain of mustard seed,

you will say to this mountain, move away from here,

and it will move away.”

**(St. Matthew 17:20)**

**And the heavens separated,**

**and every mountain and island shifted from its resting place.**

**(Revelation 6:14)**

**An avalanche near Aloerthal, Switzerland, in March, 1924, uprooted a chalet and rolled it several miles with a number of children inside. The frantic parents chopped their way in – and found all the children safe! (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 144)**

**As boulders erode, their names change. They become cobbles, which become pebbles, then gravel, then sand. Eventually sand becomes silt and dust. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**In the floods of 1881, a church at Green Islands, South Dakota, was swept away intact. The story was told that it was seen floating down the river with its bell tolling. *(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 283)***

**A missing chapter in the history of the world's oceans has been found after a search lasting two decades. Oceanographers finally located the earliest part of the Pacific plate, dating to the Jurassic Period 170 million years ago, Science News reports. During the Jurassic, a huge ocean stretched across most of the planet, while the continents sat jammed together in one place. Almost all the vast seafloor from that period has disappeared into Earth's interior. “It's all gone. It's all been subducted, except for this part,” says Roger Larson of the University of Rhode Island, co-chief of the drilling program. The Pacific plate covers about a quarter of Earth's surface. It was only about the size of the United States during the Jurassic, says Larson, with the rest of the seafloor composed of plates that long ago disappeared as the Pacific plate grew. (Denver Rocky Mountain News)**

**Physicists, attempting to determine the precise nature of this physical stuff that we call matter have probed deeper and deeper into the realms of atomic and subatomic behavior only to find that there is nothing there, at least no “thing” in the sense in which we normally think of matter. *(Ken Carey, in Abundant Living magazine)***

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**Nearly 94 percent of the volume of the Earth’s crust is taken up by oxygen. The “solid” earth is a well-packed set of oxygen anions (negatively charged ions), crowded closely together, with the small cations (positively charged ions) of the other seven elements tucked here and there in the interstices. Even the Rock of Gibraltar is a heap of oxygen and little more. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 326)***

**The massive earthquake that struck off the coast of Chile last month moved the entire city of Concepcion, the closest urban area to the epicenter, at least 10 feet west, seismologists report. *(The Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 26, 2010)***

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**General statements in the gospel should not be taken literally. Extravagant expressions are very frequent in Aramaic and Hebrew speech but never cause misunderstanding because the people know the speaker does not mean exactly what he says. Emphasis is on the power of faith and that power cannot be measured. Neither Jesus nor his disciples removed or attempted to remove mountains and Jesus did not actually mean mountains could be removed. Jesus emphasized trust in self and the power of trust. Trust in God's power and worthiness of purpose can accomplish the seemingly impossible. Without the determination to succeed, the courage to surmount obstacles, hard work and absolute faith in God and man, the vision of the Panama Canal could not have become an accomplished reality. (George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 121)**

**It has been said that faith can move mountains but no one has ever seen it done, save by the faith that man has in himself, in the steam shovels and the dynamite he has invented in the face of a hostile Nature. *(Louis Bromfield, in The Strange Case of Miss Annie Spragg)***

**I was the food-service secretary at Multnomah School of The Bible in Portland, Oregon. One day I overheard a student talking to his history professor, who had just given the class an exam on the geography of the Holy Land. “Sir,” the younger man said, “do you believe that if we have faith we can move mountains?” “Yes,” replied the instructor.” “Good,” the student replied, “because I just moved one.” *(Jamie Featheringill, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A whole forest was carried from one side of a valley at Calancathal, in the Swiss Alps, in 1806. Every tree remained standing! (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 144)**

**Canadian geologist James Monger was baffled: how could fossils native to China, Japan and Indonesia have gotten into the mountains of California and British Columbia? Warren Hamilton of the U.S. Geological Survey was equally puzzled to find an ocean island chain embedded in Idaho, 400 miles from the ocean. And what were 500-million-year-old fossils from Europe and Africa doing on the east coast of North America. Buffeted like ships on a stormy sea, the world's landmasses have collided, split asunder and welded together in new configurations many times during the planet's long history, and will continue to do so for eons of time. (Ronald Schiller, in Reader’s Digest)**

**When Hannibal invaded Italy, in the third century B.C., his military engineers employed fire and vinegar to smash a path through the Alps. The engineers heated immovable rocks with blazing logs, then poured vinegar over the rocks. The rocks split into fragments that could be pushed aside. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 259)***

**In 1972, a mountain moved over a mile in eight days. Heavy rains in the Soviet Caucasus swelled an underground river and the whole mountain sailed away. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 171)***

**How rocks roll: For decades, scientists have been mystified by the “sailing stones” of Death Valley – huge rocks, some weighing as much as 600 pounds, that very occasionally move across the dry lakebed, leaving long trails in the mud behind them. But thanks to a major stroke of luck, two scientists have uncovered the secret behind the so-called Racetrack Playa phenomenon. Three years ago, cousins James and Richard Norris fitted 15 stones with global positioning devices to monitor their location on the lakebed. For the first couple of years, the rocks didn’t move. But when the pair happened to be visiting the California national park to check their equipment last winter, the wholeprocess unfolded before their eyes. On the lakebed was a shallow pool of rainwater that had frozen overnight. At sunrise, this ice broke into very large, very thin sheets – some of them hundreds of feet across – that were lifted by the wind and pushed against the boulders. The ice sheets then essentially acted as sails, slowly propelling the rocks across the wet, muddy terrain. The sheer number of variables involved – rainfall, temperature, wind speed, even the time of day – makes the phenomenon extremely rare. “I’m amazed by the irony of it all,” James Norris tells the Los Angeles Times. “In a place where rainfall averages 2 inches a year, rocks are being shoved around by mechanisms typically seen in arctic climes.” *(The Week magazine, September 26, 2014)***

**Some people are confident they could move mountains if only somebody would just clear the foothills out of the way. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Little girl to minister: “If you think the Lord moves in mysterious ways, you should see my mom doing aerobics.” (Randy Glasbergen, in The Wall Street Journal)**

**Mohammed made the people believe he would call a hill to him and from the top of it offer up his prayers for the observers of his law. The people assembled: Mohammed called the hill to come to him again and again; and when the hill stood still, he was not in the least abashed, but said: “If the hill will not come to Mohammed, Mohammed will go to the hill.” *(Barbara Cartland)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Most of us believe God can move mountains. But how many of us believe God will? There’s a world of difference. *(Russ Johnston)***

**Most of us could move mountains if only someone would clear the foothills out of the way. *(Bob Talbert, in Detroit Free Press)***

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**Modern physics tells us that the seemingly material particles of our body are only one 800-million-billionth of its total bulk, most of which is invisible space. X-rays show the body’s imponderability. Its very atoms are solar systems, each with planets and a central sun, the suns respectively as far apart as are the stars. *(Spirit magazine)***

**You can’t move mountains by whispering at them. *(Pink, singer)***

**Each particular thing has its rate of vibration. There are no solids. That which appears solid is in reality the scene of constant activity. (Charles Fillmore, in Jesus Christ Heals)**

**Druzhnaya I, an unoccupied Soviet research station in the Antarctic that disappeared in October, 1986, was found floating in the Weddell Sea on a huge block of ice 60 miles by 120 miles (February, 1987). *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Weird Inventions and Discoveries, p. 44)***

**We have become masters of topography. We can rearrange the landscape to suit our fancy, and we can build whatever we please. But having learned to move mountains, we should not forget that mountains still have the power to move us. *(Roger B. Swain, in Saving Graces: Sojourns of a Backyard Biologist)***

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