

SPIRITUAL TASK — THE SYRIANS ARE DEFEATED (1 Kings 20-22)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The Syrians fought a battle in the hill country against the Children of Israel and lost. They figured that the God of the Israelites was a God of the hills, which is why they lost, but not the plains and valleys. So if they fought them in the plains they would win—seeing as the Israelite God wasn't a God of the valleys. They got hammered.

Meaning One of the falsities we may buy into is that the Lord has power in our inner self (the hills), in the realm of our spirit and soul, but not in our outer life (the valleys), that is, in the everyday matters and concerns of our lives. The Syrian army getting severely pummeled in the valley was a poignant reminder that the Lord's power extends beyond our inner concerns to our outer, daily activities. In fact our religious life, in order to be living, must permeate all aspects of our life—our heart, soul, mind and strength (see the Gospel of Mark 12:30-31).

Task This week when you have a thought to help someone or to give of yourself in some positive way, let that thought or intent descend into action—in other words, do it! And today begin a daily routine of saying a prayer before each meal and before you go to bed at night. *“If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.”*