

“Up and Down” a study in amazing intertextual tie ins!

The scriptures are rich in themes and metaphors that interconnect with each other. The spatial metaphor of up and down provides a great example of one of these themes:

We talk about Up and down a lot – usually the connotation of “up” = good and “down” = bad. So people who study linguistics look at how these metaphors impact meaning.

Stock market goes up and down (finances)

Status: “I look up to him” “don’t look down at me”

Heaven/Hell where is heaven? “up” where is hell? “down”

Sometimes it is **mixed** “the meeting went downhill from there” “I have an uphill battle”

1. **Reversals** Part of the power of the Gospel is demonstrated in a phrase found in Acts 17:6

Acts 17:6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,

2. **Esther and Moses**

Esther The book’s tension hinges on one seemingly insignificant act – Mordechai would not bow down to Haman so Haman wants to hang Mordechai “up” on gallows

Exodus 17:10–13 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses’ hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Victory dependent upon the placement of Moses’ Hands but notice the enemy Amalek and remember that Haman the Agagite was an Amalekite! So the up/down motif that started with Moses and the Amalekites continues with Esther! (bookends the history of Israel as a nation)

3. **Elijah/Elisha and Jacob**

1 Kings 1-2 uses “up and down” repeatedly culminating in kids yelling “Go up” to Elisha when he went down to Bethel

Earlier Jacob saw angels ascending and descending at Bethel **Genesis 28** the same location where Jacob saw angels going up and down

4. **Tower of Babel**

Humor: the Lord has to come “down” to see what the men of Babel have built “up” Gen 11

Others:

- Jesus Ascended/ Descended Eph 4
- Jonah goes down to Joppa and then down to the ship and down into the hull of the ship and then down in the sea and then up out of the great fish

So what’s

- These examples show a unified divine authorship that is masterful!
- These intertextual motifs allow us to make comparisons across texts
- These use of metaphors tap into commonly held notions about language