

Micah 4:5

Walk in the Name of the Lord Our God

For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

I write this devotion having just returned from a wintertime visit in the Black Hills of South Dakota. My trip included hiking several miles at Wind Cave National Park and Jewel Cave National Monument, both on the surface and underground. I also visited Mount Rushmore and walked the half mile Presidential Trail. Having tread on these trails, I could have credited men for what they have conquered. But I could not, not even at Mount Rushmore, men's handiwork notwithstanding.

It doesn't take long to realize that God is still at work there, both above and below ground. On the surface there's a never-ending cycle of change in the scenery, wildlife, and rocky outcrops, all of which testify to the power in God's plan of creation. Under the surface, one just stands in awe of the beauty that hides from view. There's mystery here, too, with so much undiscovered in the second and fourth longest cave systems of the world. These are things fully known by God and fully measured by God, even if men don't notice it for a thousand years.

On this particular trip, it all came together for me at Mount Rushmore when I read a trail marquee which called the place a "pulpit of stone," where we offer thanks and praise for God's blessings upon this great nation. If I walked in the name the world's gods, I would have missed it all. But I walk in the name of the Lord my God and in the presence of His holy fame.

Take time to thank God for His gift of nature. Make Him the number one reason you enjoy the outdoors. This will deepen your appreciation for all He created, and it will move you closer to Him (and He'll draw close to you – James 4:8).

TIP: Choose a small Bible or New Testament to carry outdoors. As you read it on the trail or during your activity, mark the date in the margin beside the Scripture. If you have room, also mark what you were doing (just a word, like camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, etc.). Let that Bible serve as your Scriptural outdoor journal.

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An edited version of this devotion was posted as the daily devotional on March 4, 2008, at www.SportsmensDevotional.com. Sportsmen's Devotional provides the Christian outdoorsman a daily email Bible study that sportsmen can relate to. The studies are short and to the point, and feature a new photograph and outdoor tip each day.

Micah 4:5 (Study Guide)

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HOOK

1. What is the most memorable man-made structure you've seen? In one word, tell why.

2. What was the longest hike you've ever made? Give a few details like difficulty, time, etc.

3. Describe the natural changes that have occurred in an area of the outdoors you regularly enjoy.

LINE

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What personal spiritual characteristics mark your walk in the name of the Lord your God?

What are some gods of the world? What will you do to ensure that you don't walk in the name of those gods? Choose and memorize a Bible verse to remind you of this commitment.

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: walk name of the Lord nature
