



## Into the Wilderness – Understanding & Embracing the Dark Times of Your Life

Words translated as “wilderness” occur nearly 300 times in the Bible. Wilderness seasons are brutal, but God is powerfully at work in the wilderness seasons of our lives. The only question is, do we have eyes to see it?

In order for God to give us the choice whether or not to trust him, He must present us with a moment of crisis, and, since he wants us to seek help from Him, he brings us through the wilderness to remove all other help first. When we’re in a wilderness season, it’s easy to lose sight of God’s protection, provision, and preparation. We might even wonder, “How can I trust God’s goodness when I’m in this desolate place?” But remember Jesus! He went through the ultimate wilderness—the desolation and humiliation of dying under the curse of God. If that is the measure of God’s love and commitment to us, we can trust him in our own wilderness seasons. Let’s journey together!

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable  
[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

Wilderness: 10 God Given Strategies for Difficult Times. - I Peter 4:1-2  
 A Man Understands how God uses the wilderness to shape and train.

March 05, 2020

**Bible Verses:** I Peter 4:1,2; Exodus 14:1-31; Exodus 15:1-21  
**Music:** Ellie Holcomb - Red Sea Road - Red Sea Road | Wolradio  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbCVo0f\\_wEw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbCVo0f_wEw)  
**Videos:** Moses Parts the Sea - The Ten Commandments  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqCTq3EeDcY>

**Resources:** *Walking with God through Pain & Suffering* by Timothy Keller.  
*Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores* by Diane Langberg.  
*Restoring the Shattered Self – A Christian’s Counselor’s Guide to Complex Trauma* by Heather Davediuk Gingrich.

### Into the Wilderness: 10 Strategies. – Exodus 14:1-31 & Exodus 15:1-21.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Realize that God means for you to be where you are.”** Remember – when you are in the wilderness-dark times, God placed or allowed you to be there. See Exodus 14:1,2.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Be more concerned for God’s Glory than for your relief.”** God can take an impossible situation and gain honor for Himself in the midst of our adverse situations—if we let Him. See Exodus 14:3,4.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Acknowledge your enemy but keep your eyes on the Lord.”** Yes, your circumstances are BAD! The Israelites were being pursued by the Egyptians. Yet God made a way of deliverance. Satan can do us no lasting harm when we are enclosed by the GRACE of Christ.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Pray!”** Prayer is about connecting and utilizing a power source that we need. When you face impossible odds, our prayer-answering God will impart the grace needed. Intimacy is the experience of knowing and being known. See Exodus 14:10.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Stay calm and confident and give God time to work.”** Moses told the Israelites to fear not but stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. How many times are we faced with situations where we cannot solve the problem or heal the hurt? Yet, we must leave room and give God time to work. Growth takes time!
6. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.”** Trust God for guidance in small steps. See Exodus 14:15. Faith is active. Keep moving forward. Walking by faith is hard.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Envision God’s enveloping presence.”** God will let us feel His comforting presence, just as He let the Israelites know of His care and presence through the angel of God and the pillar of cloud. See Exodus 14:19-20.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Trust God to deliver in His own unique way.”** Who would have ever thought God would have used an old man’s raising his rod over the obstructing sea to part the waters so that the Red Sea became a gateway to the Israelites and a graveyard for the Egyptians? God does not always view things as we do, and His methods of deliverance are often mysterious to us.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“View your current crisis as a faith builder for the future.”** Trials and Troubles are the “treadmills” for the soul, developing strength and stamina. See Exodus 14:30,31.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ → **“Don’t forget to praise Him.”** Moses and the Israelites sang a song of triumph to the Lord after their deliverance, exalting Him. We must not forget to be grateful for God’s deliverances because He truly is our strength and our song, and He has become our salvation. See Exodus 15: 1-21.

### ACTION: Journal this!

1. What is your strategy for the Wilderness?
2. What have you seen others do when they are in the Wilderness that works? Doesn’t work?
3. Who do you know that is in the wilderness NOW?

### Red Sea Road by Ellie Holcomb

We, buried dreams Laid them deep into the earth behind us Said, our goodbyes At the grave but everything reminds us God knows, we ache When He asks us to go on How do we go on? We will sing, to our souls We won't bury our hope Where He leads us to go There's a red sea road When we can't, see the way He will part, the waves And we'll never walk alone Down a red sea road  How, can we trust When You say You will deliver us from	All, of this pain, that threatens to take over us Well, this desert's dry But the ocean may consume And we're scared, to follow You  So we will sing, to our souls We won't bury our hope Where He leads us to go There's a red sea road When we can't, see the way He will part, the waves And we'll never walk alone Down a red sea road  Oh help us believe You are faithful, You're faithful When our hearts are breaking You are faithful, You're faithful	Oh grant us eyes to see You are faithful, You're faithful Teach us to sing You are faithful, You're faithful, You're faithful  And we will sing, to our souls We won't bury our hope Where He leads us to go There's a red sea road When we can't, see the way He will part, the waves And we'll never walk alone Down a red sea road...  No, we'll never, walk alone Down a red sea road No, we'll never, walk alone Down a red sea road...
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## Bible Verses – The Message

**1 Peter 4:1,2** - 1 Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. 2 Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.

**Exodus 14:1-31** - 1 God spoke to Moses: 2 "Tell the Israelites to turn around and make camp at Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. Camp on the shore of the sea opposite Baal Zephon. 3 "Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are lost; they're confused. The wilderness has closed in on them.' 4 Then I'll make Pharaoh's heart stubborn again and he'll chase after them. And I'll use Pharaoh and his army to put my Glory on display. Then the Egyptians will realize that I am God." And that's what happened. 5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people were gone, he and his servants changed their minds. They said, "What have we done, letting Israel, our slave labor, go free?" 6 So he had his chariots harnessed up and got his army together. 7 He took six hundred of his best chariots, with the rest of the Egyptian chariots and their drivers coming along. 8 God made Pharaoh king of Egypt stubborn, determined to chase the Israelites as they walked out on him without even looking back. 9 The Egyptians gave chase and caught up with them where they had made camp by the sea - all Pharaoh's horse-drawn chariots and their riders, all his foot soldiers there at Pi Hahiroth opposite Baal Zephon. 10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw them - Egyptians! Coming at them! 11 They told Moses, "Weren't the cemeteries large enough in Egypt so that you had to take us out here in the wilderness to die? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt? 12 Back in Egypt didn't we tell you this would happen? Didn't we tell you, 'Leave us alone here in Egypt - we're better off as slaves in Egypt than as corpses in the wilderness.'" 13 Moses spoke to the people: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and watch God do his work of salvation for you today. Take a good look at the Egyptians today for you're never going to see them again. 14 God will fight the battle for you. And you? You keep your mouths shut!" 15 God said to Moses: "Why cry out to me? Speak to the Israelites. Order them to get moving. 16 Hold your staff high and stretch your hand out over the sea: Split the sea! The Israelites will walk through the sea on dry ground. 17 "Meanwhile I'll make sure the Egyptians keep up their stubborn chase - I'll use Pharaoh and his entire army, his chariots and horsemen, 18 to put my Glory on display so that the Egyptians will realize that I am God." 19 The angel of God that had been leading the camp of Israel now shifted and got behind them. And the Pillar of Cloud that had been in front also shifted to the rear. 20 The Cloud was now between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. The Cloud enshrouded one camp in darkness and flooded the other with light. The two camps didn't come near each other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and God, with a terrific east wind all night long, made the sea go back. He made the sea dry ground. The seawaters split. 22 The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with the waters a wall to the right and to the left. 23 The Egyptians came after them in full pursuit, every horse and chariot and driver of Pharaoh racing into the middle of the sea. 24 It was now the morning watch. God looked down from the Pillar of Fire and Cloud on the Egyptian army and threw them into a panic. 25 He clogged the wheels of their chariots; they were stuck in the mud. The Egyptians said, "Run from Israel! God is fighting on their side and against Egypt!" 26 God said to Moses,

"Stretch out your hand over the sea and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots, over their horsemen." 27 Moses stretched his hand out over the sea: As the day broke and the Egyptians were running, the sea returned to its place as before. God dumped the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. 28 The waters returned, drowning the chariots and riders of Pharaoh's army that had chased after Israel into the sea. Not one of them survived. 29 But the Israelites walked right through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to the right and to the left. 30 God delivered Israel that day from the oppression of the Egyptians. And Israel looked at the Egyptian dead, washed up on the shore of the sea, 31 and realized the tremendous power that God brought against the Egyptians. The people were in reverent awe before God and trusted in God and his servant Moses.

**Exodus 15:1-21** - 1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to God, giving voice together, I'm singing my heart out to God - what a victory! He pitched horse and rider into the sea. 2 God is my strength, God is my song, and, yes! God is my salvation. This is the kind of God I have and I'm telling the world! This is the God of my father - I'm spreading the news far and wide! 3 God is a fighter, pure God, through and through. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and army he dumped in the sea, The elite of his officers he drowned in the Red Sea. 5 Wild ocean waters poured over them; they sank like a rock in the deep blue sea. 6 Your strong right hand, God, shimmers with power; your strong right hand shatters the enemy. 7 In your mighty majesty you smash your upstart enemies, You let loose your hot anger and burn them to a crisp. 8 At a blast from your nostrils the waters piled up; Tumbling streams dammed up, wild oceans curdled into a swamp. 9 The enemy spoke, "I'll pursue, I'll hunt them down, I'll divide up the plunder, I'll glut myself on them; I'll pull out my sword, my fist will send them reeling." 10 You blew with all your might and the sea covered them. They sank like a lead weight in the majestic waters. 11 Who compares with you among gods, O God? Who compares with you in power, in holy majesty, In awesome praises, wonder-working God? 12 You stretched out your right hand and the Earth swallowed them up. 13 But the people you redeemed, you led in merciful love; You guided them under your protection to your holy pasture. 14 When people heard, they were scared; Philistines writhed and trembled; 15 Yes, even the head men in Edom were shaken, and the big bosses in Moab. Everybody in Canaan panicked and fell faint. 16 Dread and terror sent them reeling. Before your brandished right arm they were struck dumb like a stone, 17 Until your people crossed over and entered, O God, until the people you made crossed over and entered. You brought them and planted them on the mountain of your heritage, The place where you live, the place you made, Your sanctuary, Master, that you established with your own hands. 18 Let God rule forever, for eternity! 19 Yes, Pharaoh's horses and chariots and riders went into the sea and God turned the waters back on them; but the Israelites walked on dry land right through the middle of the sea. 20 Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine, and all the women followed her with tambourines, dancing. 21 Miriam led them in singing, Sing to God - what a victory! He pitched horse and rider into the sea! Traveling Through the Wilderness

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## **Understanding & Embracing the Dark Times of Your Life**

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### **Wilderness: 10 God Given Strategies for Difficult Times**

Thoughts from the Book > *The Red Sea Rules* by Robert J. Morgan

*1 Peter 4:1-2*

# Into the Wilderness: 10 Strategies

## – Exodus 14:1-31 & Exodus 15:1-21

1. You Is Where You Is! → *“Realize that God means for you to be **where you are.**”* Remember – when you are in the wilderness-dark times, God placed or allowed you to be there. See Exodus 14:1,2.
2. It’s NOT about You, it’s about God! → *“Be more concerned for **God’s Glory than for your relief.**”* God can take an impossible situation and gain honor for Himself in the midst of our adverse situations—if we let Him. See Exodus 14:3,4.
3. Focus, Take your ADD Meds! → *“Acknowledge your enemy, but **keep your eyes on the Lord.**”* Yes, your circumstances are BAD! The Israelites were being pursued by the Egyptians. Yet God made a way of deliverance. Satan can do us no lasting harm when we are enclosed by the GRACE of Christ.

# Into the Wilderness: 10 Strategies

4. You need Intimacy → ***“Pray!”*** Prayer is about connecting and utilizing a power source that we need. When you face impossible odds, our prayer-answering God will impart the grace needed. Intimacy is the experience of knowing and being known. See Exodus 14:10.
5. Don't Panic – Slow Everything Down – Restore Order → ***“Stay calm and confident, and give God time to work.”*** Moses told the Israelites to fear not, but stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. How many times are we faced with situations where we cannot solve the problem or heal the hurt? Yet, we must leave room and give God time to work. Growth takes time!
6. Walk by Faith → ***“When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.”*** Trust God for guidance in small steps. See Exodus 14:15. Faith is active. Keep moving forward. Walking by faith is hard.

# Into the Wilderness: 10 Strategies

7. Imagination is Critical → ***“Envision God’s enveloping presence.”*** God will let us feel His comforting presence, just as He let the Israelites know of His care and presence through the angel of God and the pillar of cloud. See Exodus 14:19-20.
8. God is an Artist → ***“Trust God to deliver in His own unique way.”*** Who would have ever thought God would have used an old man’s raising his rod over the obstructing sea to part the waters so that the Red Sea became a gateway to the Israelites and a graveyard for the Egyptians? God does not always view things as we do, and His methods of deliverance are often mysterious to us.
9. Build Faith Muscle → ***“View your current crisis as a faith builder for the future.”*** Trials and Troubles are the “treadmills” for the soul, developing strength and stamina. See Exodus 14:30,31.
10. Practice Gratitude & Attitude → ***“Don’t forget to praise Him.”*** Moses and the Israelites sang a song of triumph to the Lord after their deliverance, exalting Him. We must not forget to be grateful for God’s deliverances because He truly is our strength and our song, and He become our salvation. See Exodus 15: 1-21.

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