



## 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

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Wilderness: YOU ARE SPECIAL! - I Peter 4:1-2; Exodus 19:1-25

May 21, 2020

A Man Understands how God uses the wilderness to shape and train.

**Bible Verses:** I Peter 4:1,2; Exodus 19:1-25; Exodus 2:23-25; Exodus 3:1,2

**Music:** Kirk Franklin - My World Needs You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0WRd4QTTc0>

**Videos:** B.O.B "Currahee" - Capt Herbert Sobel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxhUCM5ea8I>

**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: God’s Treasure!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Fifty days after Israel came out of Egypt, God brought them to Sinai to establish His covenant with them and to give them His Law. God rescued the Israelites from Egypt without any redeeming act on their part (Exodus 2:23-25). The Israelites were gathered to receive the law at Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb – Exodus 3:1,2) as a “kingdom of priests” and a “holy nation” (Ex. 19:1-6). This making of this covenant of this covenant with Israel was instigated by God Himself. It was given by His grace and purely out of God’s own good-will. In all our dealings with God, our comfort comes from our being known by Him, not by our knowing Him first. We love Him and worship Him because He first loved us and covenanted with us. Welcome to the Family!
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The covenant that He made with His people was kind and gracious. In it, He reminded them of what He had done for them, how He had delivered them from Egypt, brought them to Himself and adopted them into His family. He created a story and told them their story. It is the picture of great tenderness and strength on God’s part, and total dependence on man’s part. By His own love, He delivered His people so they would be brought into covenant and communion with Him and be His personal treasure.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → A covenant is an oath-bound relationship between two or more parties. Thus, human covenants (for example, marriage) fall under this general definition. In divine covenants, God sovereignly establishes the relationship with His creatures. A divine covenant given after the fall is, fundamentally, one in which God binds Himself by His own oath to keep His promises. The goal of all divine-human covenants is summed up in the words found throughout the Bible: “I will be your God and you will be my people, and I will dwell among you” (Ex. 6:7; 29:45; Ezek. 11:20; 2 Cor. 6:16; Rev. 21:3).

### Into the Wilderness: God’s Boundaries!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → there are conditions attached to that oath on the human side. If the human party involved in a covenant with God does not keep the covenant’s conditions, there will be consequences. When Adam and Eve broke the commandment that they should not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they experienced numerous consequences (Gen. 3:16–19). In Scripture, there is explicit mention of several divine covenants, including those made with Noah (Gen. 6:17), Abraham (Gen. 15–17), David (2 Sam. 7), Moses and the Israelites (Ex. 19–24), and Christ (Heb. 8–9).
2. There are three aspects to the Mosaic covenant:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ → The first of these is the making of the Mosaic covenant. In Exodus 19, the people have just been redeemed from Egypt and are gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai. The people pledge to follow the Lord (vv. 7–8), but before they are given the Law, they have to go through a process of cleansing (vv. 9b–15). Before the conditions of the covenant are enumerated, the people have to be clean.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The second aspect of the Mosaic covenant is the giving of the Law. In Exodus 20, Moses is given the Ten Commandments, which summarize all of the details of the Law that follows. The Law is given after salvation from slavery and is not how the people earn their favor in the eyes of God.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ → The final aspect of the Mosaic covenant is the ritual of the Law itself. The people of God maintained their covenant relationship by obeying the Law. However, the inclusion of sacrifices in the law code demonstrates that God knew that the Law would not be kept. These sacrifices covered disobedience for a time and pointed to the one who by His perfect obedience would keep the conditions of the covenant for us and thus sustain our relationship with God forevermore.

### Into the Wilderness: I WILL FIGHT FOR YOU!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → God demands that all people worship and obey Him. God demands that all people worship and obey Him. But as fallen creatures, we cannot obey God, and so God became incarnate in order to fulfill the covenant on behalf of His people. Now that Christ has come, we obey Him not to earn salvation but out of gratitude for the great salvation He brings to us.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → God calls us to be obedient. What does that mean? It is more about being a Warrior than a Nice Guy. God set this desire in the heart of every man because every man will find himself in a great battle. The Bible promises it is so. We live in a world at war, an epic struggle of good and evil begun before the dawn of time. Learning how to fight in this battle is essential for every man.

### ACTION: Journal this!

1. Can you follow directions, orders, and guidelines?
2. What three words come to your mind when you hear “obedience”?
3. Who do you know that is in the wilderness NOW?

## 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 19:1-25 - 1** Three months after leaving Egypt the Israelites entered the Wilderness of Sinai. **2** They followed the route from Rephidim, arrived at the Wilderness of Sinai, and set up camp. Israel camped there facing the mountain. **3** As Moses went up to meet God, God called down to him from the mountain: "Speak to the House of Jacob, tell the People of Israel: **4** 'You have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to me. **5** If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you'll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, **6** but you're special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.' "This is what I want you to tell the People of Israel." **7** Moses came back and called the elders of Israel together and set before them all these words which God had commanded him. **8** The people were unanimous in their response: "Everything God says, we will do." Moses took the people's answer back to God. **9** God said to Moses, "Get ready. I'm about to come to you in a thick cloud so that the people can listen in and trust you completely when I speak with you." Again Moses reported the people's answer to God. **10** God said to Moses, "Go to the people. For the next two days get these people ready to meet the Holy God. Have them scrub their clothes **11** so that on the third day they'll be fully prepared, because on the third day God will come down on Mount Sinai and make his presence known to all the people. **12** Post boundaries for the people all around, telling them, 'Warning! Don't climb the mountain. Don't even touch its edge. Whoever touches the mountain dies - a certain death. **13** And no one is to touch that person, he's to be stoned. That's right - stoned. Or shot with arrows, shot to death. Animal or man, whichever - put to death.' "A long blast from the horn will signal that it's safe to climb the mountain." **14** Moses went down the mountain to the people and prepared them for the holy meeting. They gave their clothes a good scrubbing. **15** Then he addressed the

people: "Be ready in three days. Don't sleep with a woman." **16** On the third day at daybreak, there were loud claps of thunder, flashes of lightning, a thick cloud covering the mountain, and an ear-piercing trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp shuddered in fear. **17** Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God. They stood at attention at the base of the mountain. **18** Mount Sinai was all smoke because God had come down on it as fire. Smoke poured from it like smoke from a furnace. The whole mountain shuddered in huge spasms. **19** The trumpet blasts grew louder and louder. Moses spoke and God answered in thunder. **20** God descended to the peak of Mount Sinai. God called Moses up to the peak and Moses climbed up. **21** God said to Moses, "Go down. Warn the people not to break through the barricades to get a look at God lest many of them die. **22** And the priests also, warn them to prepare themselves for the holy meeting, lest God break out against them." **23** Moses said to God, "But the people can't climb Mount Sinai. You've already warned us well telling us: 'Post boundaries around the mountain. Respect the holy mountain.'" **24** God told him, "Go down and then bring Aaron back up with you. But make sure that the priests and the people don't break through and come up to God, lest he break out against them." **25** So Moses went down to the people. He said to them:

**Exodus 2:23-25 - 23** Many years later the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cries for relief from their hard labor ascended to God: **24** God listened to their groanings. God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** God saw what was going on with Israel. God understood.

**Exodus 3:1,2 - 1** Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. **2** The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up.

### My World Needs You by Kirk Franklin (feat. Sarah Reeves, Tasha Cobbs & Tamela Mann)

<p>I can't escape Being afraid Fill me with you right now My world needs you right now</p> <p>Power fall down Bring with it a sound That points us to you right now Erase substitutes right now Fix what I see And God please fix me My world needs you right now Let us see you right now</p> <p>Power fall down Bring with it a sound That points us to you right now Erase substitutes right now Fix what I see And God please fix me My world needs you right now Let us see you right now</p>	<p>Every heart in the world, God, needs you to rescue Storms have come and torn our hearts in two We need you</p> <p>Show me your face Fill up this space My world needs you right now My world needs you right now</p> <p>Storms may come but when we call your name All things change Kingdoms fall, one thing Forever reigns is your name The anchor that holds me in my pain stays the same Oh how sweet to know that your great name Will never change</p>	<p>Jesus (oh) Jesus (nobody like you Jesus) Jesus (power is in the name Jesus) Jesus (yes I need you) Jesus (that's where the power is) Jesus (you have all of the authority) Jesus (only you are the great I am, you're the king of kings, you're the lord of lords) Jesus</p> <p>Storms may come but when we call your name all things change Kingdoms fall, one thing Forever reigns is your name Oh how sweet to know that your great name Will never change It's stays the same</p> <p>Show me your face Come fill this space My world needs you right now My world needs you right now</p>
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