



## 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: Act Like a Man-Live a Holy Life!** - I Peter 4:1-2; Leviticus 19:1,2&20:24-26  
**A Man Understands how God uses the wilderness to shape and train.**

June 04, 2020

**Bible Verses:** I Peter 4:1,2; Leviticus 19:1,2; 20:24-26; Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 12:1,2

**Music:** Matt Redman - 10,000 Reasons Live in Times Square

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo--H\\_yx2vg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo--H_yx2vg)

**Videos:** Band Of Brothers - All The Interviews With The Soldiers Of Easy Company

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMUbF0ltdT0>

**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: Holy – Holy – Holy! – Isaiah 6:1-8.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Leviticus is a book of training in how to be Holy. Holy refers to life burning with an intense purity that transforms everything it touches into itself. Holy means that God is alive on God’s terms, alive in a way that exceeds our experience and imagination.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Leviticus is an extended time-out of instruction, a detailed and meticulous preparation for living “holy” in a culture that doesn’t have the faintest idea what “holy” is. The Jews will soon enter Canaan, a culture that is a lethal minefield of gods and goddesses.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → This Holy God is present with us and virtually every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of this Holy God; nothing in us, our relationships, or environment is left out. God provides a way (the sacrifices, and feasts and Sabbaths) to bring everything in and about us into His Holy presence, transformed in the fiery blaze of the holy (Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7; I Peter 1:16; Psalm 139).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → God cares about every detail of our life (Romans 12:1,2).

### Into the Wilderness: How to be Holy - Leviticus! – A book for a redeemed people, showing how God is to be approached and worshipped.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → The sacrifices spoke of the blood that saved. The sacrifices correspond to the cup of the Lord’s Supper that reminds us of Christ’s death on the cross whereby we are redeemed. There are 5 offerings:
  1. Burnt Offering = “Surrender” of Christ for the world (Lev. 1).
  2. Grain Offering = “Service” of Christ in life (Lev. 2).
  3. Fellowship Offering = “Serenity” of Christ in life (Lev. 3).
  4. Sin Offering = “Substitute” of Christ for sin (Lev. 4-5:13).
  5. Guilt Offering = “Satisfaction” by Christ for demands of God (Lev. 5:14-6:7).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The priest offered the prayers and praises and sacrifices of the people to God in their behalf. He stood for them and pleaded their cause. Christ is our High Priest (Heb. 4:16: 7:25; 10:12; John 14:6).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → “You are what you eat!” (Leviticus 11).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → Followed the Feast of Trumpets by 10 days (Lev. 16). This was the most solemn day of the year of God’s chosen people. On this day the sins of the nation were confessed. It leads to a desire for forgiveness (I John 1:9).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ → The feasts spoke of the food that sustains (Lev. 23). The bread of the Communion witnesses to His life of which we are partakers.
  1. The Feast of the Sabbath – 23:1-3. Celebrates the finished work of God in creation (Gen. 2:2,3) every 7<sup>th</sup> day. NOW, we celebrate the finished work of Jesus in redemption as He arose from the grave.
  2. The Feasts of the Passover & Unleavened Bread – 23:6-8. Celebrated every spring at our Easter time. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for the children of Israel.
  3. The Feasts of First Fruits – 23:9-14 & Pentecost – 23:15-22. Celebrated 50 days after Passover. The Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples 50 days after Christ’s resurrection. Pentecost was the birthday of the Church.
  4. The Feasts of Trumpets – 23:23-25. This is the New Year’s Day (Rosh Hashanah) of the Jewish people. The feast points forward to the future gathering of the dispersed people of Israel (Zechariah 14:16).
  5. The Feasts of Tabernacles (Also called the Feasts of Booths). – 23:33-36. The last feast of the year. Celebrated the time when the children of Israel lived in tents during their wilderness journey.
  6. The Sabbatical Year – 25:1-7. This was the year of mediation and devotion to be observed every 7 years.
  7. The Year of Jubilee – 28:8-55. Every 50 years all slaves of Israelite blood were freed.

### Into the Wilderness: Be Holy!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → When it comes to the Christian faith, a religious system centered on surrendering your life to a God whom you cannot see, touch or hear, imagination becomes a vital element. Imagination is not the ability to conjure up what is unreal, but the capacity to see what is real but unseen. We are to see with “the eyes of the heart.”
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Holiness comes from the Hebrew word qadowsh which means “to cut.” To be holy means to be cut off, or separate, from everything else. To be holy means to be entirely morally pure, all the time and in every way possible.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Without the holiness of God, there would be no moral law to which every human being is responsible. Without holiness there would be no divine anger with sin. Without the holiness of God, there would be no hope of a new heaven and earth where holiness will reign over us and in us forever.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ → Every thought, every desire, every word, every choice and every action must be done in a spirit of humble surrender to the commands of God. God calls us to be holy, then sends his Holy Spirit to live inside of us so that we would have the wisdom and strength that we need to surrender to his holy call in all that we do.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ → Be Holy! Impossible! Because of His grace, we're accepted and not rejected by Him. Because of His grace, we become aware of the gravity of the sin that infects all of us. Because of His grace, we run to God for help and not away from him in fear. Grace is a WELCOME to us to run to Him.

**ACTION: Journal this!**

1. What body of information did you seek to master to reach a desire goal?
2. How you ever felt the shame of not being able to live up to that information?
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.

**Leviticus 19:1,2; 20:24-26 - 1** God spoke to Moses: **2** "Speak to the congregation of Israel. Tell them: Be holy because I, God, your God, am holy. **24** "I've told you, remember, that you will possess their land that I'm giving to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am God, your God, who has distinguished you from the nations. **25** So live like it: Distinguish between ritually clean and unclean animals and birds. Don't pollute yourselves with any animal or bird or crawling thing which I have marked out as unclean for you. **26** Live holy lives before me because I, God, am holy. I have distinguished you from the nations to be my very own.

**Isaiah 6:1-8 - 1** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting on a throne - high, exalted! - and the train of his robes filled the Temple. **2** Angel-seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew." **3** And they called back and forth one to the other, Holy, Holy, Holy is God-of-the-Angel-Armies. His bright glory fills the whole earth. **4** The foundations trembled at the sound

of the angel voices, and then the whole house filled with smoke. **5** I said, "Doom! It's Doomsday! I'm as good as dead! Every word I've ever spoken is tainted - blasphemous even! And the people I live with talk the same way, using words that corrupt and desecrate. And here I've looked God in the face! The King! God-of-the-Angel-Armies!" **6** Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me. He held a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** He touched my mouth with the coal and said, "Look. This coal has touched your lips. Gone your guilt, your sins wiped out." **8** And then I heard the voice of the Master: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" I spoke up, "I'll go. Send me!"

**Romans 12:1,2 - 1** So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. **2** Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**"10,000 Reasons" – Matt Redman**

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| <p>Bless the Lord, Oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, worship his holy name<br/>Sing like never before, Oh my soul<br/>I'll worship your holy name</p> <p>The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning<br/>It's time to sing your song again<br/>Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me<br/>Let me be singing when the evening comes</p> <p>Bless the Lord, Oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, worship his holy name<br/>Sing like never before, Oh my soul<br/>I'll worship Your holy name</p> <p>You're rich in love and You're slow to anger<br/>Your name is great and Your heart is kind</p> | <p>For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing<br/>Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find</p> <p>Bless the Lord, Oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, worship His holy name<br/>Sing like never before, Oh my soul<br/>I'll worship Your holy name</p> <p>Bless the Lord, oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, Worship His holy name<br/>Sing like never before, oh my soul<br/>I'll worship Your holy name</p> <p>And on that day when my strength is failing<br/>The end draws near and my time has come<br/>Still my soul will sing Your praise unending<br/>Ten thousand years and then forevermore<br/>Forevermore</p> | <p>Bless the Lord, Oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, worship His holy name<br/>Sing like never before, Oh my soul<br/>I'll worship Your holy name</p> <p>Bless the Lord, oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, worship His holy name<br/>Sing like never before, oh my soul<br/>I'll worship Your holy name</p> <p>Oh my soul bless the Lord,</p> <p>Bless the Lord, oh my soul<br/>Oh my soul, worship His holy name<br/>Sing like never before, oh my soul<br/>I'll worship Your holy name<br/>I'll worship<br/>I'll worship Your holy name</p> |
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