

School of the Desert

Message Three

Leaving the Desert

Deuteronomy 32:10 “He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

This scripture pertains to the condition God found Jacob in, and showered him with His love and protection.

Reminder: The Hebrew language is full of fascinating revelations, yet few Believers know what they are.

For example, a Christian who reads an English Bible wouldn't realize that the Hebrew word for desert and speaking are the same Hebrew word translated in English as MDBR.

By inserting different vowels into this Hebrew word, we pronounce desert as meed-bar and speaking as meda-ber.

It is no coincidence that these two words are one since it is in the most desolate places where God has made His most significant appearances and where He speaks into the lives of His people.

We have spent the last two weeks availing ourselves to what I have come to know as, “The richness of the desert experience.”

Now, it is time to avail ourselves to the examples in the Bible that will reveal the directions for leaving the desert.

Afterall, isn't the desert the place of preparation for the purposes of God to be fulfilled in our lives in places other than the desert.

In other words, we must be careful to understand that meeting with God in the desert can become so precious in our lives that we might not want to leave.



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However, if we do not leave the desert, how can we fulfil God's plan for our lives by doing the work He spent time preparing us to complete.

If you don't believe that this can be a problem, just take a quick look at **Mark 9: 2-8** *And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,*

3 and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

5 And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."

6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

8 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

With this warning in mind, let's return to the children of Israel for our inspiration for leaving the desert.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 *And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.*

3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Transition is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "The period of passing from one condition, form, stage, activity, place, etc. to another condition, form, stage, activity, place, etc."

There are numerous transitions in the Bible, two major transitions that took place for the people of God.

The first is found in Deuteronomy 34, Joshua 1, and Joshua 3.

The second is found in Acts chapters 1 and 2.

In both instances, a major spiritual transition took place that took God's children from one realm of living to another realm of life.

In both instances, an old transition was ended, a waiting period occurred, and a new transition took place.

Also, in both instances, the mission on earth for the individuals involved was finished in order for a new purpose to begin, but the impact, power, and the anointing remained.

For example, from Moses to Joshua; from Wilderness to Promise Land.

In **Deuteronomy 34**, we see in the first four verses where God took Moses upon the mountain to allow Moses to see the Promise Land, but not enter it.

It was because of Moses' disobedience of striking a rock with his staff instead of speaking to the rock to yield water that caused God to punish Moses by not allowing Moses to enter the Promise Land.

Here, we see the old generation and thinking come unto its timely death and a new leader and a new generation getting ready to take what God had promised them.

In the remaining verses within chapter 34, we now see that Moses had died at 120 years old with his physical health and vision still intact.

It is in these scriptures that we discover that the Lord buried Moses to the point where nobody knew where Moses was buried.

I find this very interesting that the Scriptures explicitly state that Moses was buried, but nobody knew where he was buried.

Even though the Scriptures does not state why God buried Moses in this fashion, I can't help but feel that the reason God buried Moses in this fashion was to break a spirit and mentality of nostalgia and yearning and worshipping the past.

Just as Moses died and Joshua took over, old movements of God pass and new moves of God come shortly thereafter.

I can't help but believe It was God's will for Moses to enter the Promise Land but Moses sin, an out of control temper, kept him out.

In the Promise Land a new work and a new way of God's sovereign move was going to take place.

Is it possible that what Moses showed by striking the rock for water instead of speaking to the rock to receive water was that Moses was not open to new moves of God.

I believe that we see this today in the modern church.

Where these followers of God in the past movement (in some cases, they follow the move itself instead of the God that brought the movement).

They do everything to preserve the music, messages, mentalities, methodologies, memories and ministry of their great men and women of faith.

They have forgotten that they were once the Joshua generation that took a risk by entering into a promise land that the Moses mentality before them could not enter.

After Moses died, Joshua and the Israelites went through a grieving and mourning period for thirty days, it was in this time of transition where Joshua took over and the Israelites remembered and laid to rest the works of Moses and prepared themselves for the new work of Joshua.

Lessons learned these forty years in the wilderness are found in the spiritual principles taught by the number 40.



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1. Look for the sign from the Lord that your wilderness is ending.

First mention: ***Genesis 8:6*** *At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made*

7 and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.

8 Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground.

He waited until he saw the sign of land that he needed.

2. Anticipate a shift from mourning to joy.

Genesis 50:3 *Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.*

Biblically, mourning has a set period of time.

They mourned the loss of Joseph for 40 days.

Many of us are going through mourning seasons.

However, let God break you from mourning into dancing during the next 40 days.

Rebuke death over your life.

3. Receive revelation regarding God's covenant plan for your future

Exodus 24:18 *Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

4. See the promise

Numbers 13:25 *And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.*

They went out and spied the land for 40 days.

During this time, let God reveal the intricacies of your promise.

However, do not let the vision of war overtake you.

5. See a time of coming spiritual responsibility so we can steward the riches that God has to release to us in the future.

I believe this 40 days is a key time to look at the stewardship issues of our lives.

We must get this correct because we can't afford to be wrong, the price is too high and there is much at stake.

Numbers 14:34 'According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.

6. Seek a time of purity

Deuteronomy 9:18 "And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

One key reason for wilderness times is for use to change our mind and think the way God thinks.

7. Seek a time of mercy and provision

1 Kings 19:8 so he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

Know that past mistakes can be rectified quickly.

Wait for the still small voice.

8. See yourselves Overcoming Giants

1 Samuel 17:16 And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening. Goliath taunted God's covenant people 40 days.

The devil will try to convince you during your wilderness season that he will overcome you.

He might speak, but do not receive his lies.

9. Set a time of intercession.

Ezekiel 4:6 "And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year."

Ezekiel interceded for Judah for 40 days.

10. Receive lessons of spiritual discipline

Matthew 4:2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Jesus fasted during His wilderness time so He would stay alert to the enemy.

Ask God to show you His discipline for you for this 40 days.

11. Recognize that there is a host of heaven available to us even in the wilderness.

Let the host of heaven aid you.

Mark 1:13 says, "And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him."

12. Submit to God.

When Jesus entered into the wilderness He immediately submitted Himself to God.

From this place of submission He was able to resist the enemy.

He resisted presumption.

He resisted pride.

He resisted the lust of the eyes.

He resisted the promise of grandeur.

He entered the wilderness filled with the Spirit, but He came out with power.

He was able to defeat the devil with written word of God.

Dynamic Take-Aways

Expect visitation!

Acts 1:3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Jesus presented Himself to His disciples after He had suffered death.

He spoke things to them for 40 days pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

Ask the Lord to bring Kingdom revelation to you in these next forty days.

Receive power!

Luke 4:13-15 say, "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all."

Power is the ability to act or produce an effect.

Power also signifies the possession of authority that an individual has over others.

He is also raising up leadership new and fresh, and developing people's gifting in a new way.

This will give us dominion in the earth.

Even though you might now feel weak, get ready to receive power.

Let your wilderness time develop a new strength and power within you.

He gives us power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy.

Be Transformed!

Be not afraid ye beasts of the field for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree bears her fruit, the fig tree and vine do yield their strength" Joel 2:22

Song of Solomon 3:6-10 What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant?

7 Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are sixty mighty men, some of the mighty men of Israel,

8 all of them wearing swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh, against terror by night.

9 King Solomon made himself a carriage from the wood of Lebanon.

10 He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple; its interior was inlaid with love by the daughters of Jerusalem.

Pillars of silver – redemption

Support of Gold – foundations of faith

Seat of purple – heavenly position

Paved with love – held together by love