

IN THE WILDERNESS

(Genesis 22)

When we are placed in the wilderness, many are the means of temptations in which they come to us. Just thinking about the word wilderness, we feel the reality of being alone in a desert where water is scarce, wild animals plenty and the presence of the peace of God seemingly small.

That is the way it seems to us, but in reality it is not so. In the emptiness of our doubt (why me), and in the acceptance of His sovereign will for us, (not my will), we come to understand that the desert is a place for deeper relationship with Him, as He molds us to be in the likeness of Jesus (Rom. 8:29).

When God called Abraham to the wilderness of sacrificing his son, Isaac, His purpose in that call was to show them the promise of Genesis 3:15, foreshadowing that which was to come four thousand years later in the person of His Son, Yeshua. In the obedience of Abraham, God showed the extent of His love for the world; in the submission of Isaac, God showed the willingness of His son to die for the world to redeem it from the eternal punishment. When Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on the (shoulders of) Isaac, This action foreshadowed the time when Yeshua would take upon Himself my and your cross and carried it to the place of his sacrifice.

Moses experienced a physical wilderness for eighty years. In that period of time, God appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush (Exodus 3:1, 2). In that wilderness, God spoke to Moses and gave him the task of leader in the deliverance of Israel from the oppression of Egypt. Was not Moses who had run away from the house of Pharaoh for having committed murder? And God was calling him to go back to the same place where he had fled and confront the authorities from whom he had run away in his cowardice attitude? Yes, it was Moses and no one else has ever gone through longer desert in a life time than Moses the servant of God, who spoke to God face to face. It happened in the wilderness, not in the luxury of the palace where he lived for forty years.

He makes us to lie down in green pastures (Psalm 23). He will make us to lie down, not in the comfort of our home, but in the desert. However in the wilderness He will feed us with the green pastures of His living Word and perhaps in the wilderness of your life, you will be willing to hear His voice, His calling to fulfill His plan for your life.

God ministered to Elijah in his wilderness after a day's journey. Elijah wished to die. He said, It is enough; now Lord, take away my life... As he lay asleep under the broom or juniper tree, behold, an angel touched him and said to him, Arise and eat. He looked and behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a bottle of water at his head. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came the second time and touched him and said, Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you. So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and nights to Horeb, the mount of God. (1 Kings 19:8). And on that mount, God spoke to him.

The wilderness, my friend, is a place for spiritual maturity, deeper relationship with God and a place where God speaks and minister to us.

Yeshua said, not My will, but Your will be done, and in His wilderness the angels came and served Him.

Let's make His words ours next time we have to go through the wilderness, with willingness of heart and surrender of spirit-not my will, but yours will be done.

Think about it.

I am Jacinta for Light from the Word.