

Prepare the Way

"In the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Isaiah 40:3-8

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" 1 Corinthians 10:11

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." Exodus 3:10-12

i. 'He fills *every valley*'

ii. 'he makes low *every mountain and hill*'

Da 4:31-33.

iii. '*the crooked roads shall be made straight*'

Hebrew word - crooked = aqob

Jeremiah 17:9 - a man's heart.

'A man's heart is *deceitful* (aqob) above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it'.

Hosea 6:8 - *polluted*.

"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, 'be holy for I the Lord am holy'. 1 Peter 1:15-16

'it is the little foxes that spoil the vines'. Song of Songs 2:15

Three things wilderness experiences are NOT:

1. **Accidental, but incidental** (Mark 1:12)

2. **A sign of God's condemnation or punishment**

"You are my beloved son, in You I am well pleased". Luke 3:2

3. **A place of abandonment**

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. Deuteronomy 8:2

4. A place of defeat

What it IS

A place of TESTING.

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. Deuteronomy 8:2.

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" Numbers 11:4-6.

So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them.
Psalm 106:15

They ate till they were gorged—he had given them what they craved. But before they turned from what they craved, even while the food was still in their mouths, God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel. Psalm 78:29-31

Ex 15:20-21

Ex 16:2-3

Ex 33:13-18.

"In order to know God, we must know His ways. He reveals His ways to those seeking after His heart, not just His provision, nor His power. But those who know His heart, will know His provision and His power."