

Chapter 49

In The Wilderness

BIBLE

Even the youths faint and get weary,
and the young men utterly fall.¹ And
no wonder, for even Satan
masquerades as an angel of light.²

They traveled from the Red Sea, and
encamped in the wilderness of Sin.³
They wandered in the wilderness in a
desert way. They found no city to live
in,⁴ but murmured in their tents, and
didn't listen to Yahweh's voice.⁵

The prophets shall become wind, and
the word is not in them. Thus shall it
be done to them.⁶ The new wine
mourns. The vine languishes. All the
merry-hearted sigh.⁷

They forgot God, their Savior, who
had done great things in Egypt.⁸ They
were stoned. They were sawn apart.
They were tempted. They were slain
with the sword. They went around in
sheep skins and in goat skins; being
destitute, afflicted, ill-treated.⁹

Then they said to one another, "We
aren't doing right. Today is a day of
good news, and we keep silent. If we
wait until the morning light,
punishment will overtake us. Now
therefore come, let's go and tell the
king's household."¹⁰

COMMENTARY

¹ **Isaiah 40:30**

² **2 Corinthians 11:14**

³ **Numbers 33:11** [*The Beatles are the ones traveling from the Red Sea*] Early in 1969, the Beatles gathered together at a film studio in London to begin work on what would eventually become the *Let It Be* album. Tensions within the band were at an all-time high. This was, in effect, the group's "wilderness experience." They had lost sight of their mission, and teamwork and joyful self expression gave way to dissension and simply going through the motions. George, who described the troubled sessions as "the winter of discontent," quit the group briefly; John called it "the most miserable session on earth."

⁴ **Psalm 107:4** The wilderness experience, when God seems far away, is designed to test us and help us to grow spiritually. Even Jesus spent time in the wilderness; the experience prepared him for what was to come later.

⁵ **Psalm 106:25**

⁶ **Psalm 106:21**

⁷ **Hebrews 11:37**

⁸ **Psalm 107:39**

⁹ **Isaiah 24:7**

¹⁰ **2 Kings 7:9**

“Come, and let us return to Yahweh; for he has torn us to pieces, and he will heal us; he has injured us, and he will bind up our wounds.”¹¹

“Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to Yahweh.”¹² Let us lift up our heart with our hands to God in the heavens.”¹³

They said, “The Lord needs it.”¹⁴

Then they cried to Yahweh in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.¹⁵

For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.¹⁶ He turns a desert into a pool of water, and a dry land into water springs.¹⁷

Then they all cheered up, and they also took food.¹⁸ They traveled from the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah.¹⁹

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.²⁰

They came to Jerusalem with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets to the house of Yahweh.²¹ One called to another, and said, “Holy, holy, holy, is Yahweh of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!”²²

¹¹ **Hosea 6:1** The wilderness experience develops within us character, humility, and perseverance. It does not last, but it does take faith and patience to endure. We can do our part to end it by ignoring the voice of the ego and keeping our thoughts aligned with Source.

¹² **Lamentations 3:40**

¹³ **Lamentations 3:41**

¹⁴ **Luke 19:34**

¹⁵ **Psalm 107:13**

¹⁶ **Matthew 18:11** The Son of Man is God’s idea for us in expression. We must lift up the Son of Man in order to reach the Promised Land.

¹⁷ **Psalm 107:35**

¹⁸ **Acts 27:36**

¹⁹ **Numbers 33:12**

²⁰ **Acts 1:12** Jerusalem represents the spiritual center of our consciousness. There is great peace in Jerusalem.

²¹ **2 Chronicles 20:28** The *Let it Be* recordings were eventually set aside, not to be released for another year. Several months after this fiasco, Paul contacted longtime producer George Martin and said “Let’s get back and record like we used to- would you produce an album like you used to?” “Well if you allow me to, I will” was Martin’s response, and *Abbey Road* was born.

²² **Isaiah 6:3**