



February 11, 2018

Pastor Chris Hill

In the Desert Together

Welcome to the Desert

Later, they left Elim, and the whole congregation of the Israelis came to the desert^[a] of Sin, which lay between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. ²The whole congregation of the Israelis complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. ³The Israelis told them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in the land of Egypt when we sat by the cooking pots,^[b] when we ate bread until we were filled—because you brought us to this desert to kill this entire congregation with hunger.” Exodus 16:1-3 (ISV)

The desert is _____

And there wasn’t a drop of water for the people to drink. The people took Moses to task: “Give us water to drink.” But Moses said, “Why pester me? Why are you testing GOD?” ³But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, “Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?” ⁴Moses cried out in prayer to GOD, “What can I do with these people? Any minute now they’ll kill me!” ⁵⁻⁶GOD said to Moses, “Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. I’m going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink.” Exodus 17:1b-4 (ISV)

¹ Friends, I want to remind you that all of our ancestors walked under the cloud and went through the sea. ² This was like being baptized and becoming followers of Moses. ³ All of them also ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink, which flowed from the spiritual rock that followed them. That rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (CEV)

The desert is _____

⁴ The LORD told Moses, “Listen very carefully! I’ll cause food to rain down for you from heaven, and the people are to go out and gather each day’s portion on that day. In this way I’ll test them to demonstrate whether or not they’ll live according to my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they

bring in, it will be double what they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron addressed the entire congregation of the Israelis: “This evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaints against him. After all, who are we that you complain against us?” Exodus 16:4-7 (ISV)

I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the middle of the valleys.

I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

¹⁹ I will put cedar, acacia, myrtle, and oil trees in the wilderness.

I will set cypress trees, pine, and box trees together in the desert;

²⁰ that they may see, know, consider, and understand together, that Yahweh’s hand has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Isaiah 41:18-20 (WEB)

The desert is _____

³⁶ Whenever the cloud was lifted up from the tent, the Israelis would set out on their journey, ³⁷ but if the cloud was not lifted up, they would not set out until it was lifted up, ³⁸ since the cloud of the LORD was over the tent by day, and the fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel in all their journeys.

Exodus 40:36-38 (ISV)

The desert is _____

² Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. ³ He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,

Deuteronomy 8:2-7 (NRSV)

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Memorize and/or meditate on Deuteronomy 8:3
- Find time this week to isolate yourself and hear the voice of God.
- Reflect on the importance of a desert experience in my life.
- Invite Jesus to walk with me and live in my heart from this day forward.