

**Back to the Future**  
**“The Christian Life Portrayed in the History of Israel”**  
**Part 2 – The Wilderness – Selected Scripture**  
**Sunday, January 26, 2014** **Frank Mascaro**

Upon our salvation (born again, new life) God takes us to the wilderness to change our focus from the past to the future.

That involves beginning to learn about God:

- His identity - He is awesome and powerful  
(Exo 19:16-22; 20:18-21; Matt 27:45-54; 2 Cor 13:4; Eph 1:19-23)
- His revelation - an understanding of His Word  
(Exo 19:1-8; 20:1-17; Deut 6:1-8; John 17:17; Col 3:16; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:2)
- His holiness - an awakening to His worship  
(Exo 23:25; 33:9-10; Lev 11:44-45; 22:2,9,16,32; Psalms 29:2; Eze 36:22-23; Rom 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13-15; Heb 12:14-15)
- His presence - an awareness of His guidance  
(Exo 13:20-22; 40:36-38; Num 9:15-23; Matt 28:20; John 14:26; 16:13-15; 2 Cor 2:14)
- His purposes - growing in obedient faith  
(Exo 34:11-14; Deut 27:10; 1 Sam 15:22; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 5:3-5)

The wilderness is the place we are tested and our responsiveness to God is revealed  
(Deut 8:2; Luke 4:1-13; Heb 3:7-4:2)

The wilderness reveals our:

- satisfaction with our carnality and immaturity  
(Num 13-14; Rom 8:5-17; 1 Cor 3:1-3; Heb 5:11-14)
- willingness to advance spiritually to maturity  
(Num 14:5-9; Eph 4:11-15; Heb 12:2-3; 6:1-2; Phil 3:7-14)

**Introspection...**

As a Christian, what is your experience in the wilderness? Are you embracing what God wants you to learn about Him or are you resisting His instruction and grace? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your relationship with God in the areas discussed this morning? (Identity, Word of God, Worship, Guidance, Obedience). Which area(s) do you struggle with the most? How can you move forward toward growth in that/those area(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you were asked to describe your progress in the faith, would you describe your self as “immature” or as diligently “pursuing spiritual maturity” in Christ? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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What areas of your faith is God prompting you to step out in and trust Him? What causes your hesitancy? What causes you to refuse to appropriate His promises and power and move into the “land” He wants you to possess? \_\_\_\_\_

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