

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

WHY THE WILDERNESS

Introduction: Israel typifies two stages of Christian life: Red Sea and Jordan River. "He brought them out that He might bring them in."

Many thought God had forsaken them in wilderness - cloud disappeared, camp here.

Separating these two stages is the wilderness - desert.

Every Christian passes through wilderness. TAYLOR: legitimate and illegitimate wilderness.

I've read, interviewed (w/ possibly one exception) all who've entered the second stage, went through long desert of defeat, doubt. WHY? Three reasons:

I. TO EMPTY US OF PRIDE

1. Teach us dependence - God's toughest task.

2. Israel in Exodus - "all that the Lord commands we will do."

Ill: Peter - Jesus couldn't convince him he was unable to live Christian life. NEW CHRISTIAN must be emptied of all self-sufficiency.

3. All of these circumstances of failure have been controlled by the God of circumstances- in order we might realize the extent of our weakness. God's method: (1) God makes us hungry

(2) Feeds us

(3) From unknown sources.

God makes us cry: "I'm hungry"!

Expose us
II. TO EXAMINE US

1. Prove us - teach us our own wickedness - God wants us to discover what's in our heart.

2. God leads us into circumstances which will reveal hidden part of our nature.

III. TO EDUCATE US

Teach us true value of life - that our life sustained by God Himself - that's the indwelt life in its earliest stages.

RLD: 8/8/71/pm:jg