

HOPE OF GLORY MINISTRIES

Spring 2003

Don't Die in Your Wilderness

Have you found yourself in the wilderness recently? As children of God we are on a journey and there are seasons in our lives that we will find ourselves in the wilderness. How do we respond in these seasons of life? Let's look at Numbers 21:4-9 and see how the children of Israel responded to God and Moses. I think it's important to point out that God had just given the Israelites a decisive victory over the Canaanites at Hormah (21:1-3). It's amazing to see the biblical pattern of a great testing or trial coming on the heels of a great victory in the Lord. Have you ever noticed this same pattern in your walk with our Lord Jesus Christ? In verse 4 we read, "Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way." Please notice that when you are in the wilderness, the enemy of our souls (satan) will come with a spirit of discouragement to get us down and to get our eyes off of Jesus and on our circumstances. Understand that we are all on a journey and should guard ourselves from a spirit of discouragement. We are "to encourage one another" (Heb. 10:25) in our walk with Jesus and when there is no one to encourage us—we are to do as King

David did when he "encouraged himself" (1 Sam. 30:6). This can be done through the Word of God and the Spirit of God. Hallelujah! If we allow a spirit of discouragement to oppress us, I believe the next spirit that comes is one of complaining and murmuring. In verse 5 we read, "And the people spoke against God and against Moses: why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." Do you see how in their discouragement they began to speak out and complain to God and Moses about their circumstances in the wilderness? All of a sudden the children of Israel thought Egypt was not so bad after all. They and their ancestors had been in bondage in Egypt 400 years. In their hearts they were turning back to Egypt. Now folks—Egypt is representative today of the world and bondage to us. And when you find yourself in the wilderness, if you allow discouragement and complaining to set in, the enemy will tempt you also to go back to the world and the lusts thereof as an easy exit from your wilderness experience. Don't go back to bondage but persevere through your testing

and allow God to purge you that you would be more conformed to the image of Christ. In this, God is glorified! In 1 Cor. 10:10, we are instructed to not "...complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer." We also read in Phil. 2:14, "Do all things without complaining and disputing..." Also let's look at their complaint in verse 5 that "there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." We know that God had supernaturally provided manna from heaven for the people to sustain them physically on their journey and on two occasions we know God supernaturally brought forth water from a rock. This is a very important example for us. When we begin walking in bondage to a spirit of discouragement and complaining in our wilderness, then we can easily begin to "loathe" the very things God has provided to sustain us spiritually during our season of testing. For example, we get discouraged in our marriage and begin complaining—then we may begin to "loathe" our spouse. Or we may get discouraged at our workplace and

[continued on Page 2]

Inside this issue:

Message from Director	1-2
God's Gracious Gift	2
"The Rock" News	3
Burning Bush	3
Thursday Night Service	4
Upcoming Events	4

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

[Continued from Page 1]

begin to "loathe" our boss and co-workers. Or maybe we even get discouraged as parents and begin to "loathe" our children during that season. And in any one of these examples the very things we begin to "loathe" are the provision God has made to help sustain us. In verse 6 we read, "So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died." This was God's discipline on the people for their complaining against God and Moses. They were "snake bitten", and to be honest we have all been "snake bitten" at some time in our lives. Maybe it was a snake bite of hurt in a relationship, or someone lied on you and caused you great pain, or perhaps even a brother or sister in Christ wronged you and you stumbled over man and backslid in your relationship with Jesus. I want you to know today there is an answer to your "snake bite" and His name is Jesus! When these fiery serpents bit the people, there was a poisonous venom released in their bodies which resulted in many agonizing deaths. Understand there was no "medical antidote" available to them in the wilderness which could have saved their lives. These people would have been trying to save their physical lives whereas today as children of God we fight for our spiritual lives in the wilderness. The devil desires for our hope, peace, trust and faith to die in these seasons. Yet our God is a giver of life. He has given us a living hope and breathes life into the very core of our being that keeps our

peace certain, our trust sure and our faith unwavering. In verse 7 we see the repentant hearts of the Israelites as they said to Moses "we have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." And just as they repented from their complaining and murmuring, so must we. It was in their repentance that God made one provision for their lives to be saved. In verse 8 the scripture says, "Then the Lord said to Moses, Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." This is a picture of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary (see John 3:14-15). The serpent that has bitten humanity is sin which ensnared Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. And just as there was no "medical antidote" in the wilderness to save the children of Israel from the snake bites, so it is today that there is no "medical antidote" for the human race to spare their lives spiritually from the bite of sin. As the Israelites were instructed to look on the serpent set on a pole so that they shall live physically, we as sinful humans are instructed to look unto Jesus Christ on the cross. We accept Him and believe Him to be our "sin-bearer" and our Lord and Savior so that we may be forgiven of our sins and be placed in a right relationship with our Heavenly Father. Just as they looked on the repulsiveness of the serpent that had bitten them, so we look on the repulsiveness of our sin bore by Jesus Christ on the cross. Thank you Jesus! There

"I will even make a road in the wilderness..."

(Is. 43:19)

was only one provision for their physical salvation in the wilderness, just as there is only one provision for our eternal salvation today. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." It was exclusive then and it is exclusive now! Please know that God has made a "road in the wilderness" (Is. 43:19) for you and does not want your hope, peace, trust or faith to die. Whatever you have been "snake bitten" by—release it to Jesus. Be encouraged today, repent from complaining and murmuring if it has been oppressing you, and get your eyes off of your circumstances and fix them on Jesus. In Hebrews 12:1-2 we read, "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." God loves you so much He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for you! Draw close to Jesus and experience the abundant life He has for you! He is faithful!

Love in Christ,

Clark Stallings

Please change your calendars....Annual Celebration will be **August 16, 2003**.

Here's a list of non-perishable food we are collecting: Fruit, Pork & Beans, Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Soup, Spaghetti & Sauce, Meat, Cereal, Crackers, and Macaroni Dinners.

God's Gracious Gift

Praise the Lord! God's Gracious Gift is now open! The Lord has blessed us in more ways than we could have ever imagined. As many people have brought clothing to the ministry, I could not help but think of Joseph and the storehouse he was told to make. We have already had the opportunity to assist several families. It is such a blessing to share the love of Jesus! We are praying the Lord would send more & more of those that are hungry not only for physical needs to be met, but spiritual as well. It states in Psalm 24:3, "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up their souls to another." That is our hearts cry—that we may walk in the fullness of God's glory; walking before Him humble and pure. Psalm 24:7 reads, "Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty." Pray for God's Gracious Gift that as people come in seeking a helping hand, that they might leave seeking His face. To God be all the glory!

Continue to pray as we reach out for churches to partner with, and also for the approval of grant proposals. Also, we are still in the process of receiving clothes, household items, furniture, and non-perishable food. We are also collecting Christian books for our Used Book Outreach. These books will be made available for check-out and hopefully be a valuable tool in helping someone grow closer to our Lord. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Aaron Kennedy at (252) 321-6857.

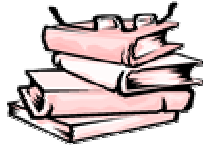


We had the opportunity to attend the Dove Awards this year. It was an incredible blessing to hear artists exalting the

Name of our Lord and Savior! Our music room is up-to-date with the latest hits from recording artists, such as Third Day (#1 slot w/ *Offerings II*), Nicole Nordeman (Female Vocalist of the Year), Michael W. Smith (Artist of the Year), along with other featured artists—Natalie Grant, Avalon, and Point of Grace.

Here's a few gift ideas....

- * We have a large selection of brush-on-canvas prints in beautiful gold frames
- * An assortment of ceramic pottery
- * Wall crosses
- * Hand bags
- * Unique jewelry
- * Gifts by *Servant's Heart*
- * For the outside—stepping stones, chimes, fountains, & other garden accessories



Recommended Reading:

The Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren. (This also has a journal available)



Books • Music • Gifts • Café
Hope of Glory Ministries

Just for Teens...

We have awesome devotions that will help you grow in your walk with Jesus. Also, lots of fiction books to choose from that touch on many topics that today's teens are faced with.



Check out our cool summer T-Shirts ...all sizes in stock!

..... and don't forget about gifts for the graduate!!



KIDS KORNER



Veggiatle Headquarters-

Come see our large selection of video's, board books, reading books, pirate ships, clothing, pillows, bed sheets...and much more.

Traveling this summer? We have new praise and worship music, and audio books, such as, *Adventures in Odyssey* and *Wild & Wacky World w/ Frank Peretti*. We also have a large selection of videos and DVD's. Traveling can be so much fun!

ATTENTION SUMMER READERS (Ages 6-12)

How can you be "More than Conquerors"? Come into *The Rock* between June 1 and August 31 to get your suggested reading list. For every 5 books read (w/ an adults signature), receive a \$5.00 gift card.

Thank you to all the women that the Lord brought together for the Women's Outreach Brunch, with Ann Conway. Many women were ministered to by His Spirit and encouraged as we left that day.

The Women's Bible Study, Calm My Anxious Heart, has been a joy and a blessing to be a part of. We will begin another bible study in the Fall. Please be praying as I seek His will for this outreach study. Dates and times will be posted at The Rock late summer. We welcome all women to join the journey with us. He is an amazing God!

*In His Care,
Gina Robinson*

We Need Your Support

We ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a monthly pledge partner with Hope of Glory Ministries. We pray that as you give, it will be given back to you "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38). We invite our community to share in the vision God has set before us.

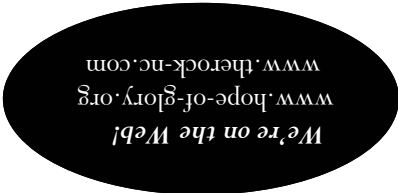
[In Acts, starting in verse 32, it says, "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked."]

The Passion of Patience...

"Though it tarries, wait for it." (Hab. 2:3)

....*Waiting at The Bush ~ Keith & Daune*

You can contact us at burningbushcafe@aol.com or visit our Website at www.burningbushcafe.com.



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MISSION STATEMENT
To stand in the gap between our community of believers and the church, and between the church and the lost. We will come alongside these three groups to proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and minister through Christian resources, evangelism, discipleship and community outreach.

Needs:

- 2 small monitors; 1 for drums & 1 for keyboard
- A 3-Tape Cassette Duplicator
- Bookcase (for Used Book Ministry)

The following needs have been met since the last newsletter:

- Laptop w/PowerPoint software
- Enclosed Trailor
- Small Table
- Standing Clothes Racks

Praise be to God who supplies all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus! (Phil. 4:19)

Prayer Requests:

- Powerful move of God's Spirit in all ministry services
- Mighty wall of protection surrounding ministry, staff, and volunteers
- Continued prayer & financial support for ministry
- Area churches to partner with God's Gracious Gift/ Approval of grant proposals
- Prayer & financial support for The Burning Bush Café & Coffeehouse
- Upcoming ECU Campus Tent Crusade (Oct 6-10).....pray for a harvest of souls!

Upcoming Ministry Events:

- Worship Service every Thursday @ 7 p.m.
- Monthly Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon (2nd or 3rd Tuesday of month)
- May 16 (7PM): Extravagant Worship
- July 26 (9AM-3PM): Family Conference, *Raising a Joshua Generation*, sponsored by Agape Impact Ministries
- August 16: Hope of Glory Annual Celebration (Time TBA)
- To be announced soon...a Men's Conference (Friday night & Saturday)

Salvation • Deliverance • Healings • Miracles
We invite you to join us every Thursday Night at 7 PM as we celebrate our risen Lord and Savior!
Each service consists of a time of worship as we lift our voices in praise, followed by the sharing of the Word and a time of prayer, as the Holy Spirit leads.
Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with Me. (Rev. 3:20)
Come and feast at His table!
[Sermon messages taped weekly and are available at The Rock & The Ministry Center]