



Unleashing the Power of the Holy Spirit The Desert Places

I. Into the Desert

- A. A Useful Place
- B. A Place of Renewal
- C. A Place of Revelation
- D. A Place of Deliverance
- E. A Place of Provision
- F. A Place of Refuge
- G. A Place of Preparation

II. Moses and Hebrew People

Exodus 13:21-22 (NIV)

²¹ By day **the LORD went ahead of them** in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Exodus 15:22-24 (NIV)

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

Nehemiah 9:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ "Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. ²⁰ You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. ²¹ **For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.**

III. Jesus

Luke 4:1-15 (NASB)

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and **was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness** ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'" . . . ¹³ When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time. ¹⁴ And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. ¹⁵ And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

IV. John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-8 (NIV)

¹ In those days John the Baptist came, **preaching in the Desert of Judea** and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

V. Elijah

1 Kings 19:3-5 (NIV)

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while **he himself went a day's journey into the desert**. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."

1 Kings 19:9-11 (NIV)

⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." ¹¹ The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

VI. Travel Tips for Desert Crossings

A. Shade & Water

John 7:37-39 (NIV)

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **streams of living water will flow from within him.**" ³⁹ **By this he meant the Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Psalms 91:1 (NIV)

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will **rest in the shadow of the Almighty**.

Psalms 121:5-8 (NASB)

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; **The LORD is your shade on your right hand.** ⁶ The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

⁸ The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever.

B. Value of a Good Guide

John 16:12-13 (NIV)

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

¹³ **But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I rejoice in your faithfulness. You have chosen a path for me that leads to righteousness and complete fulfillment. I trust your provision for my life. You are my security. You watch over my days. My life is a testimony to the power of my God, a declaration of your great love. Holy Spirit direct my path to a place of triumph, deliver me from every snare. I will rest in the shadow of your protection. Let the name of Jesus be lifted high, amen.