Wilderness/Promise #2 Pastor Rick Baker

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Prolonging Wilderness or Poised for Promise:

**Where are You?**

1. The Journey from Slavery to Promise runs through the Wilderness. (Gen. 12:1; 45:7; 46:3,4; Ex. 3:7-8; 14:12-15; Rom. 5:3-5; Jas. 1:2-4)

CHASED

You can fall back into slavery, die, or choose deliverance (Ex. 3:7-8)

In the wilderness they received the Law, learned to trust God, to depend on him, structured their religious and social lives, and discovered who was real (1 Cor. 10:5-13)

1. Wilderness may be Prolonged Depending on How Spiritually Resistant You are. (Ex. 40:17; Num. 10:11; 13:1; 25; 14:26-35,36)

CHOSEN

On the wilderness side are idols, obstacles, fears, lusts, pride, defeats, certain comforts, predictability...

Exodus outcome—land of promise (Num 13:1)

Naysayers are struck dead (Num 14:36)

1. The Destination for God’s People is Always the Promised Place (Jos. 1:1-10; 3; 4:24; 5:1)

* Correct focus—cutting through the competition for your gaze (3:3)
* Clean heart—He won’t do amazing things for an impure people (3:5)
* Courageous action—the promise won’t come to you; you must go to it by faith (3:11,16)
* Correct posture—it isn’t you fulfilling the promise, it’s God—OBEY (3:8)

*So that* ***all the peoples*** *of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that* ***you*** *might always fear the LORD your God.* (Jos. 4:24)

Opposition evaporates when God invites us out of the wilderness and we take Him up on it. (Jos. 5:1)