

J U N E 2 6 2 0 2 2



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19](#) (NIV)

Thought for today...

Fancy the idea of going on a luxurious retreat, at no cost to yourself, in the location of your choice, at a time that suits your schedule and with the duration determined by you? Or, how about a gruelling stint in the wilderness at the most inopportune time possible instead? Chances are, the former option sounds more appealing?!

Many followers of Christ will testify of a wilderness experience — a time in their life in which they were isolated and rejected by others — when barrenness and desolation were seemingly their lot. One dictionary defines ‘wilderness’ as an uncultivated, uninhabited, and inhospitable region, whilst another defines it as a neglected or abandoned area, or where a person is in a position of disfavour.



Most of us would likely admit to a preference for a life of ease, as we pursue the Lord and seek to accomplish our kingdom assignment, however, ‘Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted;’ [2 Timothy 3:12](#) (Good News Translation).

Perhaps you are having a wilderness experience, and are wondering why?! How and when will this season end? Many will judge our season in the wilderness as a punishment from God. Indeed, we may also view such a season negatively, but what if God had actually planned it in order to prepare us for our post-wilderness kingdom assignment?

[Mark 1:12](#) tells us of Jesus' wilderness experience following His baptism: **'The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.'** (New Living Translation). Note that it was the Spirit of God who led Him into the wilderness! Angels ministered to Him whilst He was there — He had not been rejected or abandoned by God our Father.

It was following His time in the wilderness that Jesus started His ministry in Galilee and began to perform miracles. [Mark 1:23-26](#) tells how Jesus cast out an unclean spirit from a man in the synagogue. Immediately after, Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law ([Mark 1:29-31](#)). Following this, **'He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons'** ([Mark 1:32-34](#)).



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Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

Although our time in the wilderness may not be pleasant, let's use the time to draw closer to God, and consider that He is seeking to do something ***in*** us — shaping and refining our character — so that at the time He has appointed, He might do something ***through*** us, that will impact the world and bring glory to His name.