

PART 3 - THE PLACE OF ABUNDANCE PT 2

Following on from the first part of the wilderness being a place of abundance, I want us to look at Isaiah 43:18-21.

Isaiah 43:18-21 "Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. "Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. "The beasts of the field will glorify Me, the jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. "The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.

Isaiah teaches the Israelites not to call to mind the former things of the past, or to ponder the things of the past. Why is this the case? Because God knows the past can prevent the future from being realised. People who are always looking back, and remembering the good old days, are never looking forward and reaching for what lies ahead.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

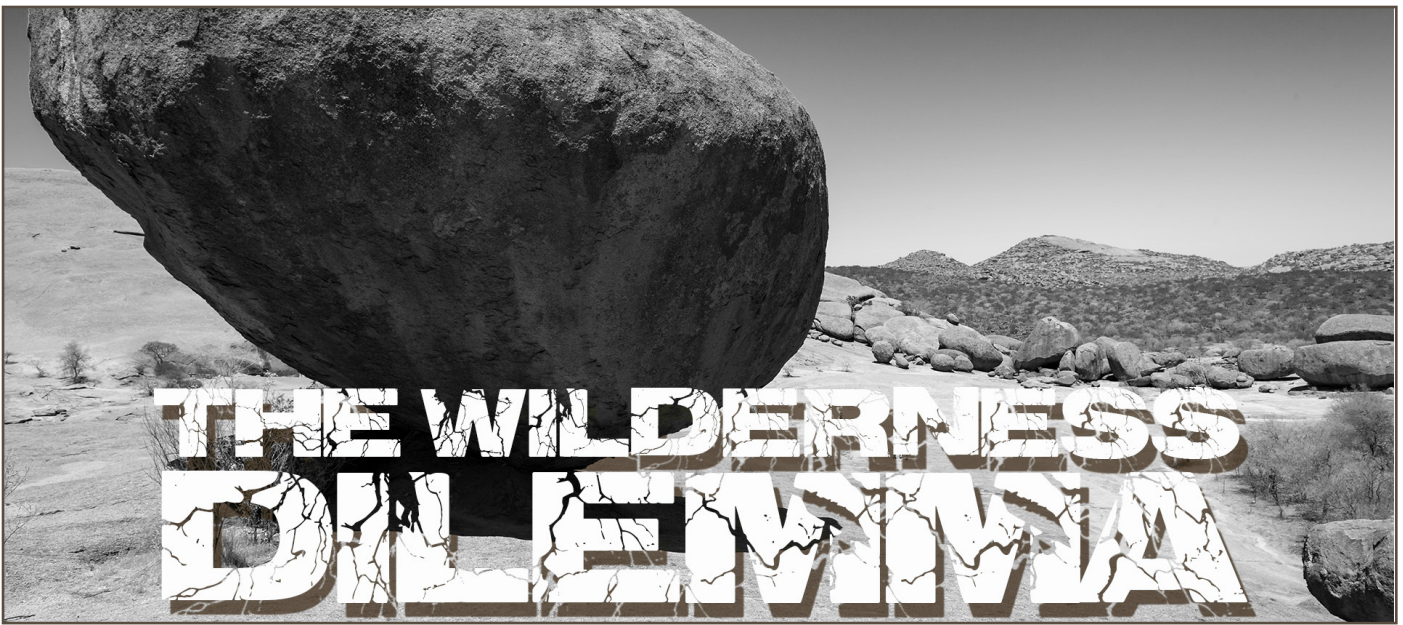
What God desires to do in a group of people gets railroaded, due to where people's eyes are fixed. Are our eyes fixed on the past and what has been or on Him and what He is desiring to do in and through His people now. His will, will be done, it's just who it will be done in and through which is the question. The one's looking back or the one's looking towards Him and the future which is now.

Luke said to receive the NEW WINE one must stop drinking the old wine which is good enough. The things of the past have got us this far, but they are not enough to take us beyond our current reality. The old wineskin which contains the old wine, is out of date for the new work God is doing today and the new wine. We need a brand new wineskin to receive the new wine.

This new work which produces this new wine is just this - NEW and it happens in the WILDERNESS. Because it's happening in the wilderness, we don't have a reference point for it yet, hence copious measures of trust is essential and required. We don't have a revelation of it yet so we must wait and petition for it through prayer.

This is a brand new dimension in Christ that is concealed from us, but for us and it is discovered in the wilderness, the unseen but seen dimension.

"Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make



“a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Even when the NEW is all unfolding around us and directly in front of us, we can be found completely unaware of this reality, and many unfortunately are.

A mistake that I have seen consistently made in the body of Christ, is to judge and discern this new wine through the reference for the things of the past, the former things. When we try to fit the NEW wine which we are hearing into our old wineskin, we will find ourselves rejecting, denying, deflecting, ignoring or walking away from what we are hearing, because the spirit of pride within us, can not understand what we are hearing, so we say to ourselves, this isn't of God.

The new wine comes from a place we don't expect. The new wine also comes forth from a person or a people we don't expect.

“I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Q. Why do the beasts, the jackals and the ostriches of the field glorify Him?

A. Because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert are given to us by God in the wilderness. We do not dig them up or come up with our strategies to figure out if there is water in the desert.

Only the Father can produce this reality and dimension. Out of nothing comes something. Out of what is not, comes what is. God gives this water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to supply His chosen people with living water to drink. From receiving this living water that comes forth from the wilderness, the desert, as His chosen people we will declare His praise. This incredible living water is only found in the One and the place called the “Wilderness”.

QUESTIONS

1. What stands out the most for you in this resource and why?
2. Why is the Father the ONLY One capable of giving us this living water?
3. If the beasts, the jackals and the ostriches glorify God, what does the demonstration of our lives glorify?
4. God promises to do a NEW THING. Why can't an old wineskin receive the new wine?
5. Can you testify of any new work He is doing in you through placing you in the wilderness and forming a new wineskin in you?