

## *Reproof and Rules for the Road*

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

We have now come with the Children of Israel one-third of the way to claiming Canaan, and we will be retracing their steps back into the wilderness in the second volume of this series. But, as we consider the “ground” we have covered and the lessons gained in our study of the first fourteen campsites, let us review the walk of Israel with its symbolic and spiritual parallels for us, in the last days of “wilderness wandering.”

From Egypt to *Rithmah*, the Children of Israel had faced lessons and tests on trust, submission, and reliance on Yahweh. In total, they would experience 42 of these *tikkun* in order to be fully fitted for Canaan. These experiences in faith will directly parallel the lessons and tests of end-time, spiritual Israel, sheltered in the “wilderness” during the final 42 months, or 1260 days, foretold by Daniel the prophet and John the Revelator, (Daniel 12:1-7, Revelation 12:6, Revelation 11:2-3, Revelation 13:4-7).

Retracing Israel’s steps, encampment-by-encampment through the first fourteen camp lessons, it is now time to summarize the parallels in the lessons and tests they experienced. These are the same tests the final people of Yahweh can expect to face during the 1260-day timeline for the last generation. In their experience through the lessons of these campsites, God’s people may not pass through them in the same order. Most likely, these experiences will be like the

threads of a tapestry, all interwoven together into one whole experience. Thus, one campsite lesson may not follow another. Rather the saints may go through many, or all, of them at once during the final 1260 days.

### **CAMP 1: SUCCOTH**

Israel's first encampment was at *Succoth*. Here they were to learn to become the acceptable living temples of Yahweh. As *Succoth* represents the booth or safe dwelling place in the wilderness, those who walk through the last, 1260-day Time of Trouble, with Yahweh's Spirit abiding within, will have blessed internal peace even amidst the "storm" of persecution and trial. This abiding experience is a vital part of becoming the "Sons of God," as He called ancient Israel to become during their stay at *Succoth*.

### **CAMP 2: ETHAM**

At *Etham*, in our end-time experience, we, like Israel of old, must learn to allegorically "beat our swords into ploughshares." The sobering fact is that we cannot defend ourselves against the "giants" we will face at the end of the world. But, the good news is that we don't need to. Yahweh Himself has promised to be our sole Defense. When final spiritual Israel passes through their *Etham*, it will be a time for decision. We will have come out of spiritual Egypt, but it is now time to prayerfully search the heart to be certain that Egypt is fully out of us. This time of prayerful introspection parallels Jacob's experience when he wrestled with the "angel," humbly seeking Yahweh's blessing and Presence. Our desperate prayer, with Jacob's, will be "I will not let Thee go, unless Thou bless me!" It is in this humble desperation, while we are fully aware of our great need, that we come before Yahweh desiring His blessing more than life itself. Then, as a "prince, we will prevail with Yah," as did Jacob of old.

### **CAMP 3: PI HAHITROTH**

At *Pi Hahiroth*, Israel faced the threat of certain death, yet they lived, for Yahweh delivered them by parting the Red Sea and destroying Pharaoh's army. The last generation of Yahweh's people will again face the wrath of a terrible enemy, seeking to claim their lives. For during the last 1260 days, there will be a death penalty placed upon Yahweh's true followers. The foe will be mighty and the temptation to capitulate (return to bondage in spiritual Egypt) in order to save

their lives will be great. But, He will part the impassable “waters” for His end-time Israel, making a way of deliverance where there was none. Our part in this test is that of total trust in Yahweh. We are to keep our “eyes” upon Him, Who is our strong Tower of defense (*Migdol*). If we will be still and know that He is God, He will keep us safely in His Will.

#### **CAMP 4: MARAH**

Like the experience of the Children of Israel at *Marah*, we as end-time saints will be physically tested. There will be times of water deprivation and physical suffering. But, by having prepared for these times through the indwelling Presence of Yahshua, our righteous Branch, we will not sink into the bitterness of complaint against Yahweh. We are to seek His help with a humble and faith-filled plea. Then we are to rest in Him waiting patiently for His Will to be done.

#### **CAMP 5: ELIM**

*Elim* reminds us that even amidst the darkest hours of this Earth’s history, there will be spiritual oases. Final spiritual Israel can look forward to these quiet times of peace and plenty, even during the 1260 days of great Trouble. And when these periods come, we are not only to be physically refreshed, but we are also to seek greater spiritual strengthening. Our “eyes” of faith must be focused upon Yahweh.

#### **CAMP 6: YAM SUPH**

*Yam Suph*, Israel’s sixth campsite offered a temptation for discouragement. The end-time saints will also face the enemy’s “bog of despondency.” We are warned that there will be times when Satan will tempt God’s people to feel they are unworthy of Grace, and thereby unable to call upon Yahweh. Such moments are opportunities for faith. If we, like Christian in *Pilgrim’s Progress*, focus upon our past and our burdens of sin we will sink into the “mire” of despair. We are warned that this will be a big test for Yahweh’s people during the final Time of Trouble. But if, instead, we keep our “eyes” fastened upon our Saviour, claiming His lovely merits as our own, we may walk upon the “stones of faith” never sinking into the “slough.”

#### **CAMP 7: WILDERNESS OF SIN**

When Israel camped in the Wilderness of *Sin*, they encountered the false doctrines of the Moon “god.” In our experience here, we will

face twisted teachings aimed to increasingly tempt many to pollute the doctrines of Yahweh by mixing them with the philosophy of the pagans. Especially at the heart of this test will be our observance of Yahweh's holy Sabbaths. Those who will face these "winds" of false doctrine and walk through safely, will be daily feasting upon the "manna" of the Word. By eating of this pure, heavenly Bread, we will be protected from the polluted practices and beliefs of *Sin*.

### **CAMP 8: *DOPHKAH***

The insights from *Dophkah* link us to the commission of Yahshua to become fishers of men. No one will enter the Kingdom of Heaven without reaching out to deliver at least one other caught in darkness and bondage to the enemy. Thus, even though soul-winners will reach others at great personal risk, during this final 1260 days, God's people will gladly "roll up their sleeves" and reach out to all who will hear the Saviour's knock. In so doing, many will be saved!

### **CAMP 9: *ALUSH***

Today, the unity of the Early Christian Church is much sought after. The believers were of "one accord," when the "Fire" of Pentecost fell. With over 30,000 different Christian religions in the world today, many wonder if Yahweh will ever have a people who are completely unified in His one, ultimate Truth. But, *Alush*, with its experience of the "kneading," is "where" Yahweh will finally unify His saints. This represents the final "sealing" or "marking" work which will take place in the last 1260-day timeline. Those who have sinful leaven, will be joined to the corporate "dough" of the father of sin (Satan's marked ones). But those who have become filled with leaven of the Kingdom will be fully imbued with Yahweh's Spirit and united in the pure woman (end-time church) of Revelation 12.

### **CAMP 10: *REPHIDIM***

At *Rephidim* not only are we introduced to the "Rock of our Salvation," but to the vital importance of intercessory prayer. Those, who for their faithfulness to Yahweh, will face the "battle" of a court trial, will be sustained by the intercessory prayers of the brethren, through this experience. Many, in persecution, will be strengthened to endure it, by the prayers of Yahweh's faithful. We must be diligent in prayer, for only while the prayers of Moses ascended did Joshua have the victory.

### **CAMP 11: MOUNT SINAI**

At *Sinai*, the Children of Israel were invited to be with their holy God in real and personal ways. He dwelt with them, through the Sanctuary. He revealed His Character to them, through His *Torah* (Law). He comforted them day and night with His visible, abiding Presence. This is a lovely picture and promise for the faithful in the last days. If we walk in purity through His Power, we will BE the beautiful sanctuary of His indwelling Grace. If we delight in His *Torah*, and meditate upon it as a means to know our Heavenly Father, we like Moses will learn God's "ways." And if we, like the faithful few, reject the idolatrous mixing of profane heathen worship practices into the "worship" of Yahweh, we will be invited to serve the Father as sanctified kings and priests.

### **CAMP 12: KIBROTH HATAAVAH**

*Kibroth Hataavah* was the encampment where the outpouring of the Holy Spirit fell upon the "elders" of Israel. It was Yahweh's will that He pour out "His Spirit upon all flesh." But, most were caught up in lusting after the sensual gratification of Egypt. In a direct parallel to the last days, the "Fire" fell upon them all, one way or another (either in blessing or in judgment). If our focus is upon Yahweh and we are seeking His wonderful Will to be carried out in our lives, we will not be fixated with the flesh. In order for the Pentecostal "Fire" of *Kibroth Hataavah* to fall upon us, we must be seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

### **CAMP 13: CHAZEROTH**

Offering the test of submission to godly authority, *Chazeroth* focuses our attention on the basis of pride. While we always "ought to obey God, rather than man," wherever these loyalties come in conflict, we are to meekly remain submitted to our god-given human authorities, in every area where there is no conflict with the Commands of Yahweh. By humble submission under authority, we recognize Yahweh's intent to use human "powers" to shape our characters and personal testimony. Ultimately, by submitting to Yahweh's chain of command, even in areas of hardship, we learn meekness and find the "grave" to bury all pride. Canaan literally means "humiliation." We can only enter Yahweh's ultimate Canaan if we have learned the lesson of humble meekness in our experiential "school" of *Chazeroth*.

## CAMP 14: RITHMAH

Final Israel is being called to actively “fight the good fight of faith.” We are to be among the “violent” (those who seize the Kingdom no matter the personal cost nor size of the foe) who, in faith, take Canaan by “force.” If we can be dissuaded by “giants,” we will be. But, if we will face these “giants,” like David of old, with the Word of Yahweh and total faith, “it is the Father’s good pleasure to give us the Kingdom.” Thus, we will obtain the promise. For each of us, Canaan must be “conquered” by living and active faith, as we vanquish the “giants” through Yahweh’s might and power. No “drifters” can possess the “Promised Land.”

### THE 1260 PROMISES OF THE GREAT “I AM”

In the book of Revelation, we read of a people (symbolized as the pure woman of Revelation 12) who are taken on “eagle’s wings” into the wilderness for 1260 days (3<sub>1/2</sub> years), to be nourished and protected there from the wrath of the serpent (Satan). This “wilderness” experience will not only parallel Israel’s literal wilderness journey through the 42 lessons and tests, it will also take place in a literal 42 months. During this time, Yahweh, Whose full Hebrew Name is 42 letters, will be fitting His people for Canaan and placing His Name (sealing) upon His people.

Yahweh’s full, 42-letter, Hebrew Name is translated into English as “I AM THAT I AM.” In the King James Version of the Bible, this most holy Name appears as “I AM.” This omnipotent Name includes that which He did, is doing, and will do. Thus, “I AM” is present in “I WILL.” There are a total of 1290 Scriptures where Yahweh’s says “I WILL,” wherever such a statement is made, the whole power of the “I AM” is present. If we remove the verses where Yahweh says, “I WILL not,” there are exactly 1260 promises remaining. This means that there are enough promises from the “I AM”, to carry us through our whole “wilderness” journey! As we will next discover, a study into these “I WILL” Scriptures reveals the mighty things Yahweh has not only promised to do, but has sealed the promise in His “I AM THAT I AM” Name. Promises made in this Name are more solid and sure than anything in the universe! In fact, when the “I AM” says “I WILL,” it is already accomplished. Let us now take a look at a few of these assurances, made by, and in, the Name of the Great “I AM.”

Moses, who was called to lead Israel out of literal Egypt, first encountered this mighty Name for God, when Yahweh revealed Himself as the Great "I AM THAT I AM," from a burning bush in the wilderness, on the south western side of Mount *Sinai*. Moses, a type of the Messiah, and whose name means "called, or drawn, from the water," was called for a special assignment by the Great "I AM." To be called from the water is to be drawn from among the people, as was the Messiah. This calling extends to all who are drawn to the "Eternal."

It was at this "burning bush" that Moses was given his commission and the Rod of God to do it. That symbol of Infinite Power is in our "hands," when we take the Word by faith "in our mouth" and heart. By giving this commission under His Name as the Great "I AM," the Heavenly Father revealed that all His power, which established the universe, would assure and perform this assignment. To be sent in that Name is the assurance the mission will be accomplished. And He says, "So send I you."

There in the presence of "Eternal Burning," The Almighty I Am, told His servant "I will..." "I will" send you to Pharaoh (the "ruler of darkness"), "I will" bring My people out of darkness. As this is another way to express His Great Name, "I AM," wherever He says "I WILL," we have assurance that the Great "I AM" will indeed do for us, what He has promised. He will accomplish these 1260 "I WILL" promises, during the 1260 days, by the same immutable and omnipotent Flame that led His people out of darkness. While we go forward by faith in His Name, He will bring it to pass.



So what are the promises which Yahweh has given us in His Name as the Great "I AM"? To answer this, we need to look at the first and last Scriptures where Yahweh says "I will," which we now understand should really read as, "I WILL."

The first occurrence of God saying "I will," is found in Genesis 2:18, where

Yahweh says that He WILL make a helpmeet for Adam. In other words, He will give Adam a bride. The last occurrence of God speaking the words, "I WILL," in the Old Testament, comes in Malachi 4:5, which says "I WILL send you Elijah" before the great and terrible day of the LORD. The first time this phrase is spoken by God in the flesh (New Testament), is found in Matthew 4:19. There Yahshua says "Follow Me and I WILL make you fishers of men." The final occurrence appears in Revelation 21:9, where John is told to come and see the Lamb's Bride.

Using these four verses to assemble a "bone structure" of the Heavenly assurances, we find that the Great I AM promises to set us apart for holy use, deliver us from bondage to the enemy, call us to serve Him as fishers of men, and will take us to be with Him in the end. Putting those four texts together, we have the entire plan for restoration of what was lost in Eden. It is accomplished solely by the power of the Great "I AM."

Amazingly, we can even observe the "I WILL" meaning in these four texts, in the Gematria of the Scriptural number references themselves:

**Genesis 2:18 "I WILL" promises to give Adam his bride**

- $2+18=\underline{20}$  20 signifies our relationship to Yahweh by redemption
- $2+1+8=\underline{11}$  11 indicates the sovereignty of Yahweh being spurned in disorder and rebellion

**Malachi 4:9 "I WILL" promises to warn mankind of the terrible Day of Judgment**

- $4+5=\underline{9}$  9 is the number which warns of Judgment

**Matthew 4:19 "I WILL" promises to make His people into "fishers of men"**

- $4+19=\underline{23}$  23 is a warning of death
- $4+1+9=\underline{14}$  14 is the number meaning deliverance

**Revelation 21:9 "I WILL" promises to prepare a Bride (a pure people) for the Second Adam (Yahshua)**

- $21+9=\underline{30}$  30 represents the Blood of Christ that covers and cleanses His people, purifying them

- $2+1+9=\underline{12}$  12 means The Kingdom has come!

## A NEW VIEW OF THE WILDERNESS

With such mighty assurances promised to the end-time people of God in His sealing Name, the 1260-day wilderness experience should not cause us to fear! The same God Who spoke the universe into existence has said “I WILL” prepare you, be with you, empower you, keep you, and ultimately bring you into His Kingdom. There is no “maybe” about it! The only “if” in the whole sequence of 1260 promises is in the human. **If** we will loyally and faithfully follow Him, **if** we will remain His people, no matter the cost, than He WILL do for us, and in us, all that He has promised.

So often, Christians think with trepidation of the 1260-day Time of Trouble. But, this is not a right perspective on our time there. When Yahweh’s people are called into the final “wilderness” for the literal 1260 days of the Beast’s reign, we will be experiencing all that has been promised by the Great “I AM.” He WILL empower us to fish for men! He WILL prepare us and fit us to be the Bride! He WILL bear us on “eagle’s wings” right up to His Kingdom! He also promises to unify us, carry the Gospel to the whole world through us with great power, and WILL reward our labors with much fruit. In other words, everything true Christians are praying for God to do, He has promised to accomplish during our time in the wilderness!

Will it be a time of Trouble? Yes! But, that isn’t where the focus of faith would have us dwell. The REAL significance of the 1260 days in the wilderness isn’t about what the Devil or Beast is doing, it is about what the Great “I AM” WILL do during that incredible time.

Perhaps our right attitude towards this 1260-day, wilderness journey is best explained through the testimony of Corrie Ten Boom. Corrie, was a non-Jewish Christian living in Haarlem, Holland during the Nazi occupation of World War II. She and her family protected many of the persecuted Jews during this terrible time. Her godly efforts were ultimately betrayed, and worse came to worst when she and her family were carted off to concentration camps. Corrie and her sister, Betsy, ended up in the infamous camp of Ravensbruck.

The conditions at Ravensbruck were horrifying and the abuse the women received there was inhuman. By Corrie's own explanation, being interred in the Ravensbruck prison camp was the absolute "worst-case-scenario," which Corrie and Betsy had most feared during their efforts to aid the abused Jewish people.



*Women from the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp engaged in forced labor during World War II*

Yet, when interviewed about her experiences there, Corrie's face would light up as she smiled and spoke of how the Saviour was with her more sweetly at Ravensbruck than at any other time of her life! While she was incarcerated in this horrible place, she described sensing Yahshua's Presence with her in a way that was so real, it was almost like He held her by the hand and walked with her every day. Corrie later indicated that she actually missed her time at Ravensbruck, because it has been marked by such sweet and special communion with her LORD, such as she had never experienced before, nor since.

This will be the experience of Yahweh's end-time people, as they walk with Him through the terrible, yet Heaven-touched "wilderness." And this should be our trusting perspective when we anticipate this soon-coming time. Far from being a time to fear, this intense walk will be the Great "I AM's" answering of all our prayers.

God is calling His people into the wilderness, which means "I speak," or "I lead." There in the wilderness He will nourish us with His manna (probably literally as well as spiritually). He will protect us with His Cloud, and guide us with His Fire. He will walk with us so closely that our communion with Him will be comparable to that of Moses or Corrie Ten Boom. He will draw us to His Mountain where He will speak to our hearts, and He will carry us safely on "Eagle's Wings" through the wilderness and into Canaan.

## CONCLUSION

In this first volume, the 42 camp-lessons have just begun. We have been taught the importance of beginning under the Blood, we have studied the significance of trusting in Divine Care for protection and nourishment, both physically and spiritually. We have noted the commission to offer deliverance to others trapped in the Devil's darkness. We have witnessed the defeat that comes by unleashing our tongue as well as the victory against formidable giants, gained through intercessory prayer. Furthermore, we have been warned against insubordination to the godly chain of command, the rebellion of which brings soul-leprosy upon us.

But the "Big Test" which comes to each of us through it all is this, will you believe and trust in the "I AM" who has told you, "I WILL"? Will you walk with Him in a manner that is so submitted to His Will and good Purpose, that you will not sever from Him, no matter the threats or "size" of the foe? Only those who stand firmly, with a level of faith and commitment that says, "Not my will, but Thine be done," will be fitted to enter and empowered to conquer Canaan. Spiritually, you are on this journey; figuratively, it is just ahead. Be strong and of good courage. Remain faithful. If you will, the promises made to Abraham and the Children of Israel will assuredly be yours.

*"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," Luke 12:32.*

