MAIN SCRIPTURES

- James 1:2-4
- Deuteronomy 8:2
- 2 Corinthians 6:17
- Mat. 17:10-11; Isaiah 40:3

A Firm Foundation Requires Soft Soil

- Previous Teaching
- The Journey and Destination
- The Forerunner

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into **various temptations**, knowing that **the testing of your faith** produces endurance. **Let endurance have its perfect work**, that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4 WEBUS

"**You shall remember** all the way which Yahweh your God has led you these forty years in the **wilderness**, that he might **humble you**, to **test you**, to **know what was in your heart**, whether you would **keep his commandments or not**." Deuteronomy 8:2 WEBUS

"Therefore "'**Come out from among them, and be separate,'** says the Lord. 'Touch no unclean thing. I will receive you." 2 Corinthians 6:17 WEBUS

"His disciples asked him, saying, "Then **why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**" Jesus answered them, **"Elijah indeed comes first, and will restore all things;**" Matthew 17:10-11 WEBUS

"The voice of one who calls out, **"Prepare the way of Yahweh in the wilderness!** Make a level highway in the desert for our God." Isaiah 40:3 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Section One in "The Heart of David" is called The Captive Heart. Its emphasis is not as much about a heart in captivity as it is about a heart being freed from captivity. That is what it will take to step into your high calling.

Considering Y'shua's words, the title of this message seems enigmatic: A Firm Foundation Requires Soft Soil. "Everyone who hears My words and doesn't obey is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Rain poured down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; it fell—and its fall was great."

But lean in, and you will hear what it takes to understand His words and obey—it takes a heart transformed from hard and impenetrable to soft and fertile. A soft heart has become fertile ground—easily tilled and cultivated to bring forth a great harvest. A soft heart is what it takes to stand on the firm foundation—the Rock! "Everyone who hears My words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on the Rock. Rain poured down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock."

PREVIOUS TEACHING: INTRO TO THE HEART OF DAVID

1. About the Book

A. <u>The Heart of David:</u> <u>Building the Spiritual Temple</u>

(1) What we to become as God's children…

(a) *You are all living stones…*

1. "…**being built up as a spiritual house**, to be a **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5

(b) *God's Kingdom is not a place…*

1. "…**when will God's Kingdom come?** …"**God's Kingdom doesn't come with observation**; …'Look, here/there!' **God's Kingdom is in you.**" Luke 17:20-21

a) It's the perfect manifestation of God in man.

1) *"…They shall call his name **Immanuel**," which is, being interpreted, "**God with us.**"* Mat. 1:23

b) When the Holy Spirit becomes **<u>the only thing</u>** animating you, and not a single thing tainted by sin remains—that's what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

c) That's why John pointed to Christ (Mat. 3:2) and Jesus pointed at Himself (Mat. 4:17), and said, *"Repent, for **the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!**"*

(c) The world is waiting for the Kingdom to manifest in God's children; in fact, all of… "…creation waits with eager expectation **for the children of God to be revealed…**" (see Romans 8:18-21)

a) This is what that transformation will look like.

1) "…*with unveiled face* ***seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror****, are* ***transformed into the same image from glory to glory…****"* 2 Cor. 3:18

(d) The maturing of the Church into spiritual adults who look like, talk like, act like, and walk like Christ, is the purpose of the five-fold ministry: *apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists, and teachers*. (see Eph. 4:11-15)

1. Anyone who belongs to Christ… *"****ought himself also to walk just like he walked.****"* 1 John 2:6
2. If you intend to remain a child, there is a message for you too… *"Everyone who* ***lives on milk*** *is not experienced in the word of righteousness;* ***he is a baby****. But* ***solid food is for those who are full grown,*** *who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil."* Hebrews 5:13-14

(2) **Y'shua preached about the Gospel of the Kingdom.**

(a) …for the Church to solve its mysteries!

1. …"To you it is given **to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven…**" Matthew 13:11

(b) …to make the Gospel of the Kingdom known to the nations!

1. "**This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole** world for a testimony to all the nations, and **then the end will come.**" Matthew 24:14

(3) **Blueprints**

(a) Patterns, Copies, and Shadows

1. "According to all that I show you, that is, **the pattern** of the tabernacle and **the pattern** of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it." Exodus 25:9
2. "See to it that **you make them** according to **the pattern which was shown you on the mountain**." Exodus 25:40
3. "**You shall raise up** the tabernacle **according to its pattern** which you were shown on the mountain." Exodus 26:30

(b) **WHY?**

1. "Christ came as High Priest of **the good things to come**, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation." Hebrews 9:11

2. "…**We have such a High Priest, …a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. … …serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things,** as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, **"See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain**."" Hebrews 8:1-5

(c) Even Jesus followed a precise blueprint!

1. *Jesus said, "…**the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing.** For **whatever things he does, these the Son also does likewise.**"* John 5:19

(4) **Blueprints of Prayer**

(a) There are many models (blueprints) for prayer.

1. The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4).
2. The Aaronic or priestly blessing… (Numbers 6:23-27)
3. The "Sinner's Prayer" (Romans 10:9-13) and blueprints like it.
   a) *"For God so loved the world…"* John 3:16
   b) *"**Repent and be baptized,** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of sins…**"* Acts 2:38
   c) *"**Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,** you and your household.""* Acts 16:31

d) *I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ crucified.**"* 1 Cor. 2:2

(5) **The Most Important Prayer after Salvation**

(a) **Even after his born-again encounter with Christ…** Paul did not consider himself to have already apprehended the ultimate prize—the upward call.

1. "Brothers, **I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold**, but one thing I do: forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**" Phil. 3:13-14

(b) That upward call is expressed perfectly in Eph. 4:13.

1. "to **attain to the unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to become a full grown [perfect] man, **to reach the stature and fullness of Christ.**"

(6) **Who are you now, really?**

(a) You are NO LONGER an imperfect, destined-to-sin victim of being human! (See Voluntary or Mandatory.)

1. "…**our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with**, so that **we would no longer be in bondage to sin.** For **he who has died has been freed from sin.**" Romans 6:5-7

a) The new you is NO LONGER a slave to sin!

b) The new you is freed to NO LONGER sin!

2. "**consider yourselves also to be dead to sin**, …**don't let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. …For sin will not have dominion over you…**" Romans 6:11-14

a) Sin is DEAD in the new you!

b) Sin has NO DOMINION over the new you!

1) *"Whoever is born of God* ***doesn't commit sin, …he can't sin,*** *because he is born of God."* 1 John 3:9

2) *"We know that* ***whoever is born of God doesn't sin…"*** 1 John 5:18

c) To prevent the Scriptures from contradicting itself, there needs to be an explanation for how and when sin does occur? **It's not the NEW YOU!**

1) *"…****it is no more I that do it****, but sin which dwells in me. {20} But if what I don't desire, that I do,* ***it is no more I that do it,*** *but sin which dwells in me."* Romans 7:17, 20

(7) **The Believer's equivalent of the Sinner's Prayer**

(a) The Prayer of David. God said that David was *"a man after His own heart."* (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22)

1. Pray with a heart like David's and you just might change the world.
    a) God is looking for a unified body of believers to volunteer—to enthusiastically and humbly proclaim this prayer for the entire world to hear.
    b) If willing, we will find ourselves in the midst of the most exciting events the world has ever known.

THE JOURNEY AND DESTINATION

2. The First Biblical Blueprint in The Heart of David

A. <u>It's Personal</u>

(1) **Introduction:** The **Journey and Destination**

(a) These elements explain why a heart transplant is needed and why the surgery takes place in the Wilderness.

1. My Prayer is that as you weave through the first section, "The Captive Heart," you will come to the same conclusion.

(b) As a Believer, it is easiest for you to understand the *Journey and Destination* in its broadest sense, and by first making it personal.

1. "So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation**

with fear and trembling. For **it is God who works in you both to will and to work** for his good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13 WEBUS

a) Eternal salvation comes only by grace through faith (Eph. 4:8-10), so this passage is not admonishing you to work out your own eternity.

b) Instead, it points to the temporal side of your promised eternal life—**the life you are living now.**

c) Walk through this life in holy reverence of a holy God; submit each choice to the God who did His redemptive work in you and who wills for you to live like you know it and appreciate it!

(2) The **Journey and Destination** is **Personal**

(a) Let stay with your salvation as the object lesson…

1. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into **various temptations**, knowing that **the testing of your faith** produces endurance. **Let endurance have its perfect work**, that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4 WEBUS

a) James is obviously addressing believers because they are having *their faith* tested!

1) Before Jesus, you were in the world.

2) He redeemed you out of the world and set you apart to be saved for eternity.

b) The blueprint looks like this:

1) You start in Captivity, take a journey through the Wilderness, and end at your destination—the Promised Land.

2) You travel from the world (captivity, bondage, sin, a heart of stone), to the Wilderness where you face trials that test your faith, and which turn your heart of stone into a heart of flesh.

3) *Becoming perfect and complete, lacking in nothing,* is the next stop after the Wilderness. It's the Promised Land.

c) To summarize the Journey and Destination…

1) It's Captivity—Wilderness—Promised Land.

2) Just like Israel: Egypt—Desert—Canaan.

d) Why did Yahweh bring Israel into the wilderness first, instead of directly into the promised land?

1) *"**You shall remember** all the way which Yahweh your God has led you these forty years in the **wilderness**, that he might **humble you**, to **test you**, to **know what was in your heart**, whether*

you would ***keep his commandments or not****."*
Deuteronomy 8:2 WEBUS

e) Or as James says…

1) *"****the wilderness (testing of your faith)*** *produces endurance. And* ***endurance leads to the promised land (perfection)****."*

f) For every Christian, the Promised Land is a guarantee.

1) Albeit, you guaranteed to face trials that test your faith and help you grow along the way.
2) These trials take place in the Wilderness.

(b) And these patterns repeat themselves over and over again in our lives…

1. It is likely that you will be at different locations on the journey in different areas of your life at any given moment.

a) Mini-cycles may have you in the Promised Land at your job and in the Wilderness with your spouse.
b) You may be in the Captivity with your addiction and in the Wilderness with your children.
c) We have all experienced these patterns and can recognize that we are at different stages in different areas of growth.

B. <u>The Journey and Destination is Corporate</u>

(1) **Introduction:** Corporately, the Church is moving along on this **Journey** to a **Destination** as well.

(a) We learned previously that we are the Temple of God and that comes with some restrictions…

1. "**Don't be unequally yoked** with unbelievers, for what fellowship do righteousness and iniquity have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what portion does a believer have with an unbeliever? **What agreement does a temple of God have with idols?** For **you are a temple of the living God.** Even as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them. I will be their God and they will be my people."" 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 WEBUS

a) Remaining attached to this world is off limits!

1) *"Therefore "'**Come out from among them, and be separate,'** says the Lord. 'Touch no unclean thing. I will receive you."* 2 Corinthians 6:17 WEBUS

(b) **Concerning the heart**, technically, the Body of Christ remains on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea. We need to be called out of the world and into the Wilderness.

1. “He cried with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and she has become a habitation of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hated bird! **For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality, the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality** with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from the abundance of her luxury.” I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **“Come out of her, my people, that you have no participation in her sins, and that you don’t receive of her plagues,** for her sins have reached to the sky, and God has remembered her iniquities.” Revelation 18:2-5 WEBUS
    a) Even at the very end, God’s children are still being called to come out…
    b) The Church remains attached to the political, economic, and religious systems of the world.
    c) God says to the world: “Let My People Go!”

(c) It’s understandable if you have difficulty agreeing, but separation was an obvious priority in the early Church.

1. “**For this is the will of God: your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality,** that each one of

you **know how to control his own body in sanctification and honor**, not in the passion of lust, even as the Gentiles who don't know God," 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 WEBUS

a) Give it some time and let the Spirit minister to you.

b) God is always faithful in revealing His truths in perfect timing.

c) In our last teaching we were admonished…

1) ***"Flee sexual immorality!*** *"Every sin that a man does is outside the body," but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or* ***don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*** *who is in you, whom you have from God?* ***You are not your own,*** *for you were bought with a price.* ***Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit,*** *which are God's."* 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 WEBUS

(2) **It's Complicated:**

(a) On the world stage, the heart of the Church remains in Egypt; still part of the world systems—the institutions of the world remain deeply rooted within its fabric.

1. This can be a confusing concept because there are many smaller journeys within the single main

journey, from Egypt through the Wilderness and into the Promised Land, which runs throughout history.

2. For the Church, the smaller journeys repeat over and over, the same way as they do for individuals.
3. But the main journey runs its course one time through God's entire plan for mankind.
4. Considering the Church's position in history, it is still in Egypt and needs to be called into the Wilderness.

(b) Let's make it perfectly clear.

1. This is not meant to criticize the Church, its accomplishments, or its place in history.
2. Passing into the Wilderness is not bad; it's not an inferior place or a punishment.
3. Abraham was the first "Hebrew," the first "to cross over" into the Wilderness, which was symbolic of progress in his faith—an advance.

(3) **It's Supernatural:** The Wilderness is where supernatural growth and transformation occur—where we are purified.

(a) Leading into the Wilderness, we were led by a cloud by day and fire by night.

1. "Yahweh went before them **by day in a pillar of cloud,** to lead them on their way, and **by night in a**

pillar of fire, to give them light, that they might go by day and by night:" Exodus 13:21 WEBUS

(b) Leading into the Wilderness, we were protected supernaturally from our enemy (right before Egypt was destroyed).

1. "Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. **Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh**, which he will work for you today; for you will never again see the Egyptians whom you have seen today. **Yahweh will fight for you, and you shall be still.**"" Exodus 14:13-14 WEBUS

(c) Leading into the Wilderness, the ocean parts before us!

1. "Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and **Yahweh caused the sea to go back** by a strong east wind all night, and **made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.**" Exodus 14:21 WEBUS

(d) In the Wilderness, bread *falls down from Heaven*.

1. "Then Yahweh said to Moses, "**Behold, I will rain bread from the sky** for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not." Exodus 16:4 WEBUS

(e) In the Wilderness, meat *springs up from the Earth*.

1. "In the evening, **quail came up and covered the camp;** and in the morning the dew lay around the camp." Exodus 16:13 WEBUS

(f) In the Wilderness, water *pours out from a Rock*.

1. "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb. **You shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it**, that the people may drink." Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel." Exodus 17:6 WEBUS

(g) In the Wilderness, shoes and clothes don't wear out.

1. "I have led you forty years in the wilderness. **Your clothes have not grown old** on you, and **your sandals have not grown old** on your feet." Deuteronomy 29:5 WEBUS

(h) In the Wilderness, *the Soil is Supernatural!* You too must go there!

1. "Now I would not have you ignorant, brothers, **that our fathers** were all **under the cloud**, and all **passed through the sea**; and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all **ate the same spiritual food**; and all **drank the same spiritual drink**. For they **drank of a spiritual rock that followed them,**

and the rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 WEBUS

(i) We have work to do before the Lord's return…

1. The Church still does not occupy its rightful place of authority over the things of this world, and needs to enter trials in the Wilderness to be equipped with the promise of James 1:4: *"That you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."*

a) Before you dismiss the possibility—pause.

b) By the time we reach the midpoint, you will see.

c) This is not a criticism or condemnation of the Church—that would be denying the work of the Spirit.

d) It is simply emphasizing that we MUST follow the blueprint of God's plan.

THE FORERUNNER

3. The Restoration [In the Wilderness]

A. <u>It's Them</u>

(1) **Introduction:**

(a) The spirit that calls the Church into the Wilderness must come first before the Lord's return.

(b) There must be a "restoration of all things" before Christ's second coming.

1. "Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet before** the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes. **He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers**, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."" Malachi 4:5-6 WEBUS
2. "His disciples asked him, saying, "Then **why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**" Jesus answered them, **"Elijah indeed comes first, and will restore all things;**" Matthew 17:10-11 WEBUS

(c) This restoration **takes place in the Wilderness and prepares God's people** *to pray the Prayer of David,* which will eventually lead us out of the Wilderness into the Promised Land.

1. "The voice of one who calls out, **"Prepare the way of Yahweh in the wilderness!** Make a level highway in the desert for our God." Isaiah 40:3 WEBUS
2. "In those days, **John the Baptizer** came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, *"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"* **For this is he** who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying, **"The**

voice of one crying in the wilderness, make the way of the Lord ready! Make his paths straight!”” Matthew 3:1-3 WEBUS

a) **Notice the nuance:** the New Testament seems to say John (*who came in the Spirit and power of Elijah) was *“crying in the wilderness”*, when Isaiah said *“the way is in the wilderness”*. The path to the Promised Land is always paved in the Wilderness!
    1) *“But the angel said to him, “Don’t be afraid, Zacharias, because your request has been heard. **Your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.** {17} He will go before him **in the spirit and power of Elijah**, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to prepare a people prepared for the Lord.”” Luke 1:13,17 WEBUS
b) The path to the Promised Land is always paved **by trials** in the Wilderness!
    1) “Then Jesus was **led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted** by the devil.” Matthew 4:1 WEBUS

c) Israel was led out of Egypt and into the Wilderness; the wilderness is always the first stop on the *journey to the destination!*

d) Y'shua also was led out of "Rome" into Egypt and back.

1) "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, **"Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt**, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." He arose and took the young child and his mother by night and **departed into Egypt**, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet **[Hosea 11:1]**, saying, **"Out of Egypt I called my son."**" Matthew 2:13-15 WEBUS

(2) **The Forerunner:** The Wilderness Prophet

(a) God always has forerunners who prepare the way for His people to follow.

(b) The forerunner enters the Wilderness first, is tested and purified, becomes ready, and then declares a Prayer like David's with complete conviction and faith.

(c) Each forerunner's duty is accomplished when he makes that prophetic journey across the Jordan and into the Promised Land, never doubting for a moment that the giants before him are no match for his faith.

(d) These brave predecessors complete their mission by going back to get the people.

(e) Just as Moses was exiled to the desert at 40 years of age and returned to Egypt at 80 to proclaim *"Let My people go!"* my prayer is that during the course of these lessons, the spirit of the **Wilderness Prophet** will get hold of your heart and inspire you to do the same.

1. "Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to kill Moses. But **Moses fled** from the face of Pharaoh, and **lived in the land of Midian**, and he sat down by a well." Exodus 2:15 WEBUS
2. "Moses was **instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.** He was mighty in his words and works. **But when he was forty years old**, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel." Acts 7:22-23 WEBUS
3. "Afterward Moses and Aaron came, and said to Pharaoh, "This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel,

says, **'Let my people go**, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"" Exodus 5:1 WEBUS

4. "**Moses was eighty years old**, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh." Exodus 7:7 WEBUS

B. <u>It Could be You</u>

(1) **Leave Your Comfort Zone:** My hope is that you will be encouraged to leave your comfortable place in the world and head off into the Wilderness.

(a) It is in this desolate place that you will receive a new heart of flesh that will empower you to pray the Prayer of David with boldness, conviction, and faith.

(b) The power unleashed with this level of faith will part the Jordan and you will cross over on dry ground.

(c) Elisha showed us a perfect example as went with Elijah **back** from the "Promised Land" into the Wilderness, as a prototype of the mission of the forerunner.

1. "When Yahweh was about to take Elijah up by a whirlwind into heaven, Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Please wait here, for **Yahweh has sent me as far as Bethel.**" Elisha said, "As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The sons of

the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that Yahweh will take away your master from over you today?” He said, “Yes, I know it. Hold your peace.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please wait here, for **Yahweh has sent me to Jericho.**” He said, “As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that Yahweh will take away your master from over you today?” He answered, “Yes, I know it. Hold your peace.” Elijah said to him, “Please wait here, for **Yahweh has sent me to the Jordan.**” He said, “As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” Then they both went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance; and they both stood by the Jordan. **Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the waters; and they were divided here and there, so that they both went over on dry ground** *[into the Wilderness]*. When they had gone over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “**Please let a double portion**

of your spirit be on me." He said, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be so for you; but if not, it will not be so." As they continued on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha saw it, and he cried, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" He saw him no more. **Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He also took up Elijah's mantle that fell from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. He took Elijah's mantle that fell from him, and struck the waters, and said, "Where is Yahweh, the God of Elijah?" When he also had struck the waters, they were divided apart, and Elisha went over** *[out of the Wilderness]*. When the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho facing him saw him, they said, **"The spirit of Elijah** *[the Wilderness Prophet]* **rests on Elisha** *[this could be, should be, you!]***."** They came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him." 2 Kings 2:1-15 WEBUS

a) Things to notice:

1) Elisha is persistent; he wants a double portion of what Elijah has. *("Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and* ***he will do greater works*** *than these, because I am going to my Father."* John 14:12)
2) Elijah passed into the Wilderness on dry ground supernaturally and was taken up by Yahweh.
3) Elisha immediately took up Elijah's *mantle (his garment)*, which is symbolic of taking up his *mantle (a mission passed onto a progeny)*.
4) Elisha passed out of the Wilderness on dry ground to minister to the people; *they both passed over on dry ground!*
5) "The spirit of Elijah *[the Wilderness Prophet]* rests on Elisha *[this should be you!]*."

b) This is exactly what Y'shua did!
1) *"Then Jesus was* ***led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted*** *by the devil."* Matthew 4:1 WEBUS
2) And when He exited the Wilderness… *"Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him. Now when Jesus heard that John*

was delivered up, ***he withdrew into Galilee.*** *{17} From that time, Jesus* ***began to preach, and to say, "Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.****""* Matthew 4:11-12, 17 WEBUS

c) This is exactly what you must do (your assignment as His progeny)!

1) *"As you go, preach, saying,* ***'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!'"*** Matthew 10:7 WEBUS
2) *"When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them,* ***"Receive the Holy Spirit!*** *If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained.""* John 20:22-23 WEBUS
3) *"Behold,* ***I send out the promise*** *of my Father on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem* ***until you are clothed with power*** *from on high.""* Luke 24:49 WEBUS
4) *"Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but* ***wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me.*** *For John indeed baptized in water, but* ***you will be***

baptized in the Holy Spirit *not many days from now.""* Acts 1:4-5 WEBUS

5) *"strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and* ***that through many afflictions we must enter into God's Kingdom.****"* Acts 14:22 WEBUS

(d) The narrative of the 12 spies who spied out the Promised Land is another perfect prototype…

1. "Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "**Send men, that they may spy out the land of Canaan** *[the Promised Land],* which I give to the children of Israel. Of every tribe of their fathers, you shall send a man, every one a prince among them." {25} **They returned from spying out the land** *[the Promised Land]* at the end of forty days. They went and came to Moses, to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, to the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word to them and to all the congregation. **They showed them the fruit of the land.** They told him, and said, "We came to the land where you sent us. Surely it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and **the cities are fortified and very large.**

Moreover, we saw the children of Anak there. Amalek dwells in the land of the South. The Hittite, the Jebusite, and the Amorite dwell in the hill country. The Canaanite dwells by the sea, and along the side of the Jordan." **Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, "Let's go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!"** But the men who went up with him said, **"We aren't able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we."** They **brought up an evil report** of the land which they had spied out to the children of Israel, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is **a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people who we saw in it are men of great stature.** There we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim. **We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.**""
Numbers 13:1-2, 25-33 WEBUS

a) Things to notice:
    1) 12 Spies (forerunners) are sent out of the Wilderness to survey the Promised Land.
    2) Some are fearful and some are faithful.

3) The fearful bring a bad report back into the Wilderness (don't let that be you!).
4) The Bad Report: *"We can't bring the Kingdom!"*
5) The faithful bring a good report back into the Wilderness (let that be you!).
6) The Good Report: *"We can bring the Kingdom!"*

b) The forerunner, or the "first fruits," of God's harvest must complete the journey from Captivity to the Wilderness and into the Promised Land first.
1) In doing so, they will serve as an example to the main body of His harvest who will later come out of Captivity in the greater Exodus.
2) As a forerunner, you must follow the same pattern. You will pray the Prayer of David, and with a new heart go back and call the people out of Captivity. *"Let My People Go!"*
3) The main body will complete the journey for which you have paved the way. You will guide them through the Wilderness, lead them in the Prayer of David, and into the Promised Land.

"Let My People Go!"

Questions and Discussion

1. **Describe the Biblical Blueprint known as *The Journey and Destination*.**
   A. How does it play out in your personal life?
   B. How does it play out corporately in the Church?
2. **Why is the Wilderness a part of the journey that cannot be skipped?**
   A. Use the following passages to craft your answer:
      1) James 1:2-4
      2) Deuteronomy 8:2
3. **Why is it accurate to say that as a corporate body, the Church remains in the wilderness in regard to its historical journey?**
   A. Use the following passages to craft your answer:
      1) 2 Corinthians 6:14-17
      2) Revelation 18:2-5
      3) 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
      4) 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
4. **The Wilderness is not a bad place or place of punishment, but instead a place where the supernatural thrives.**
   A. Use the following passages to prove this is a true statement:
      1) Exodus 13:21; 14:13-14; 16:4; 16:13; 17:6
      2) Deuteronomy 29:5; 32:9-14

5. **Why is it true that the final restoration of all things begins in the wilderness?**
   A. Use the following passages to craft a well-thought-out essay to describe the role of a forerunner, who that was, who that will be, and how you might be involved:
      1) Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 17:10-11
      2) Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 1:13, 17
      3) Bonus: How do Moses' words: *"Let My people go!"* Align with the calling of a forerunner?
6. **Use the following Bible Passages to describe perfect examples of the ministry of forerunners *(see the pages 24-31 in the sermons notes for help)*:**
   A. Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:1-15)
   B. The 12 Spies (Numbers 13:1-2, 25-33)