

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

SERMON NOTES

Senior Pastor Subash Cherian

MESSAGE: WORD OF GOD IN THE WILDERNESS (PT 1)

The Word of the Lord Comes to People - God's Word is intentional, personal, and timely.
Scriptural Pattern - "The Word of the Lord Came..."

- Luke 3:2
- Isaiah 38:4
- Jeremiah 1:4
- Ezekiel 1:3
- Hosea 1:1
- Joel 1:1
- Jonah 1:1
- Zechariah 1:1
- Malachi 1:1

The Word of the Lord Comes in the Wilderness

- Luke 3:2
- 1 Kings 17:2 / 19:9-12

Understanding the Wilderness

- 1 Kings 19:4, 15 - wilderness (Midbar) - comes from Dabar/Davar - meaning "to speak" or "word"
- Psalm 29:8
- Ezekiel 37:7
- Matthew 4:4

Elijah in the Wilderness (1 Kings 19)

1. The Cave Experience

- 1 Kings 19:9, 13
- Exodus 33:22
- God's Question: "What does *thou* here?" - 1 Kings 19:9
- God confronts us with self-examination in the wilderness.

2. The Lord was not in the wind, earthquake or fire.

- 1 Kings 19:11-12
- Like many others, Elijah probably only looked for God in dramatic manifestations.

3. How God Spoke to Elijah

- "Still Small Voice" - 1 Kings 19:12
- The still small voice of God speaking to the human heart is actually more powerful than outward displays of power or displays of God's judgment.

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God's Healing Process in the Wilderness

- God Ministers to the Whole Person
 - a. **Touch Therapy**
 - 1 Kings 19:5, 7
 - God first ministered to Elijah's physical needs.
 - b. **Nourishment**
 - 1 Kings 19:5, 7
 - Elijah received this rest and replenishment repeatedly from the LORD. One quick nap and one quick meal wasn't enough.
 - c. **Rest**
 - 1 Kings 19:5-6
 - This was the mercy of God extended to Elijah. Sometimes the most spiritual thing a person can do is get enough rest and replenishment.
 - d. **The Word**
 - 1 Kings 19:9, 13
 - God knew the answer to this question, but it was good for Elijah to speak to the LORD freely and to unburden his heart.
 - e. **Psychotherapy**
 - 1 Kings 19:10, 14
 - Discouraging times make God's servants feel more isolated and alone than they are.

Direction After the Wilderness

- God Does Not Leave Us There
 - a. **Return the Way You Came**
 - 1 Kings 19:15
 - When Elijah went back over that road, it was with a very different step from that which brought him down to Beer-sheba.
 - b. **New Assignment**
 - 1 Kings 19:15-16
 - God gave Elijah a new task to focus on. No longer terrified and distressed, he went to the wilderness of Damascus with a different perspective.

The Word and Wilderness Go Together

- Luke 3:2
- John grew spiritually (separated from religion) and strengthened his faith in the Word of God.

Personal Application & Reflection

- Seek God's Word - What is your wilderness word today?